november/december 1996

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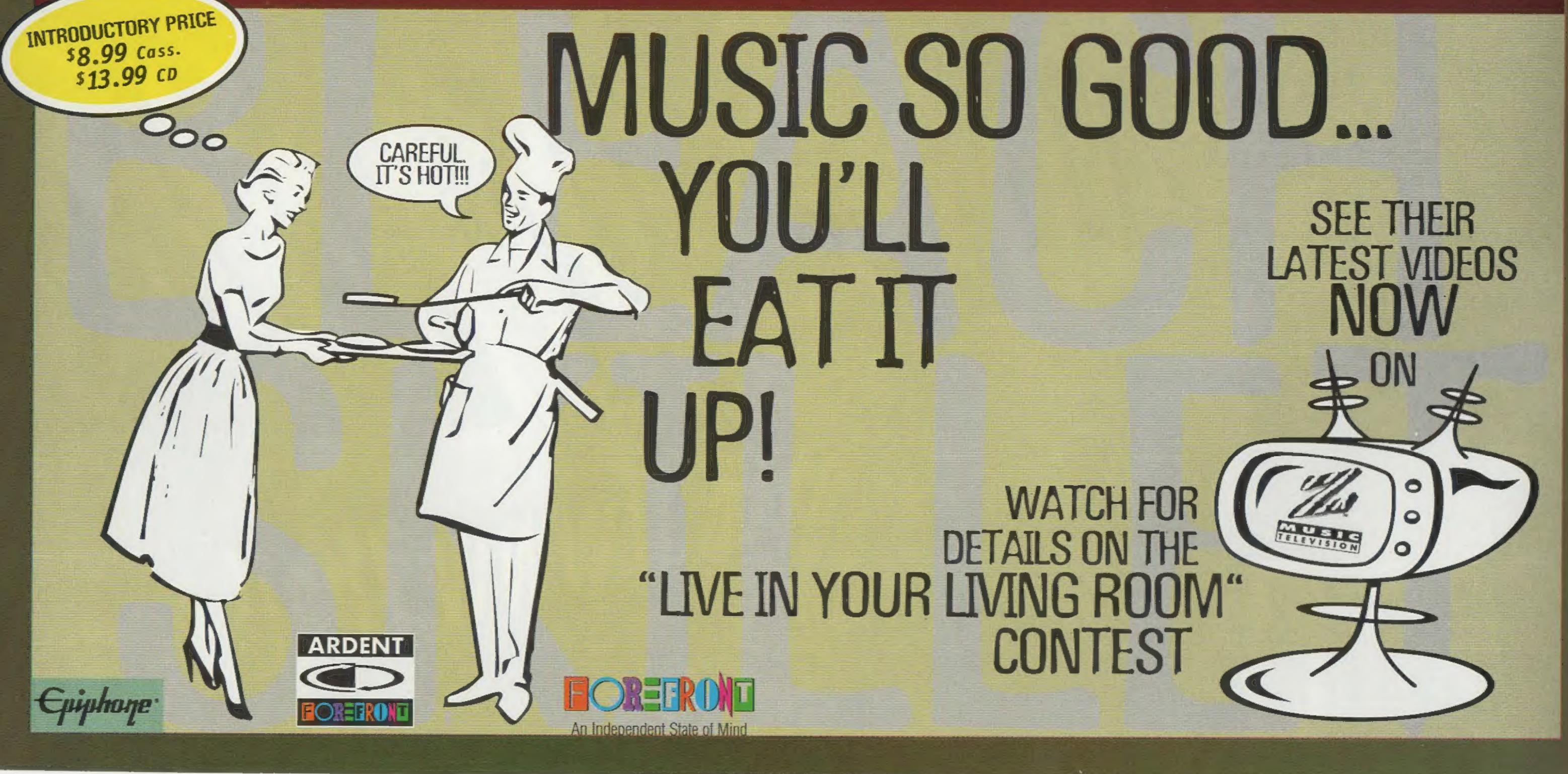




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> Curb Records Sarita Martin 47 Music Square East Nashville, TN 37203

Essential Record Group Robert Beeson One Maryland Farms Road Brentwood, TN 37027

ForeFront Communications Mark Adkisson 201 Seaboard Lane Franklin, TN 37064

Gotee Records Joey Elwood 617 Bradley Ct., Suite 100 Franklin, TN 37064

Gray Dot Records Marty Bush 1979 South Cobb Drive Marietta, GA 30060 radiodot@aol.com

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to ANDREW

INDIANA for

the way. Thanks

If you've ever

wondered why

questions (like,

"what did you

have for break-

fast")? We have

reasons. You are

us. Yes YOU, and

everything you

do. In case you

saturate the

entire planet.

To do this, we

need to put a

copy of 7ball in

hand. This takes

money ... this is

come in. Our

to know what

kind of person

where you really

advertisers want

reads this maga-

zine. If you line

up with what

every person's

haven't figured it

out, 7ball plans to

very important to

perfectly good

we have surveys

or just ask fruity

for playin'.



[7ball rules ... or at least we'd like to think so]

Congratulations domination. sending the winfrom our last issue. Your Sony CD player is on

> We need you, the 7ball army, to do the following: •Thank your local Christian retailer for carrying 7ball. If they don't carry it, request it.

> > •Write at least five record labels and tell them what you like (which bands, music tion how much 7ball rocks.

If you help us out, these things will help us add pages to the magazine (more stories, more reviews). These things will help us achieve maximum rockage (Chris wrote that line). These things will help us hire a new editor.

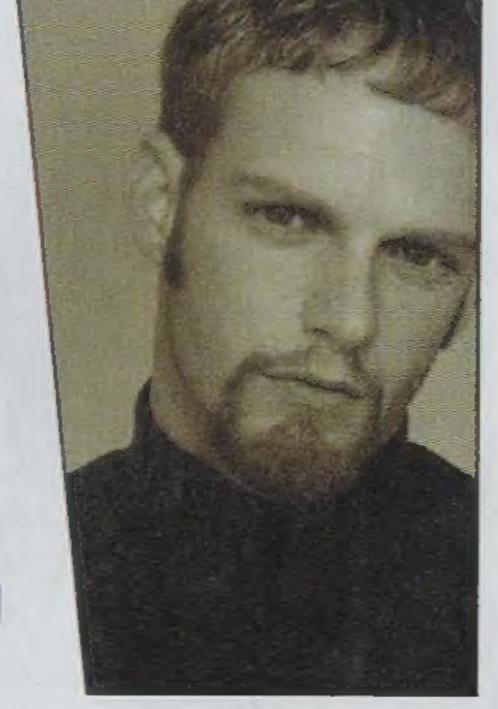
We already know how "into the music" you are-the amount of letters we receive every day proves this. You've been exceptionally supportive.

With your help, we can reach further with the music you love—and the message the world needs to hear.

-frank chimento

p.s. Let me know you helped us out by e-mailing me at frank7b@7ball.com

p.s.s. In case you didn't notice ... some record label addresses are printed along the sides.



they're looking for, they'll spend money with us allowing us to print more 'zines and more pages. FENNIG of BRYANT, More 'zines and pages means total Christian rock

ning entry/survey So, here's the deal: Record labels and Christian retail stores are still not convinced that a megalomammoth number of people crave good Christian modern rock. You have the power to convince them-use it.

style, breakfast foods). Don't forget to men-

3921 Evergreen Irving, TX 75061 re:think Nick Barre PO Box 210694 Nashville, TN 37221 Nick@rethink.com

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Kelly Crane

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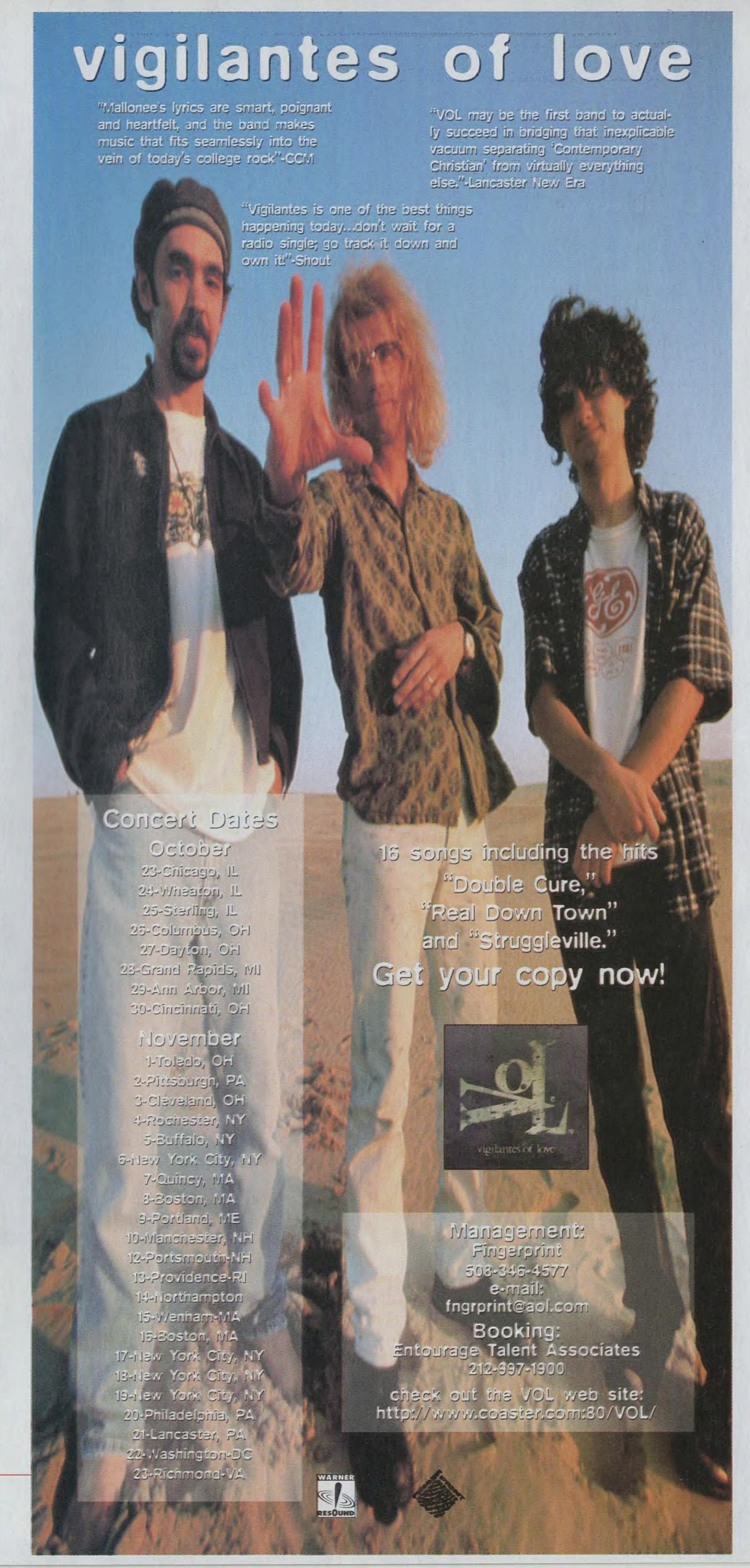
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7BALL HAIKU FEVER

kay, here it is ... the Backwards Haiku (seven/five/seven). What can I say? I had "seven" on my mind ... He poured forth His liquid red Pierced hands His blood shed With cross He stumbled ahead.

Flogged skin hanging by a thread Thorns upon His head Saving man from death instead.

Fulfilling what He had said Rising from the dead Not ashamed of He who bled.

> Kristy L. Welch Seattle, WA

"Pa reads 7ball. Sister and I like bean dip. Ma reads 7ball."

> Kent Coleman Pikeville, KY

NOT TBALL HAIKU FEVER

hanks so much for your coverage of Creation '96 in 7ball. We've been doing this festival for some 18 years, and this is the best story we've gotten. We appreciate your kind comments, as well as your participation this year. Thall is a valuable resource for the youth and it has our wholehearted support. We look forward to even bigger and better things from 7ball at Creation '97.

> Tim Landis Producer, Creation Festival Lancaster, PA

ey! I'm a big Black Eyed Sceva fan and I wanted to thank you for the article about them in the July-August issue. It gave me a more indepth look into their music ministry.

> Hazel Claveria Gilbert, AZ

- appreciate 7ball's honest reviews. Keep up the good work here! Second, Laplease consider reprinting issues 1-3. It sounds like there's a big demand for 7ball back issues, and I would pay extra \$\$ to have the complete set.

> Michael Froehlich Grand Forks, ND

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: There are back issues for sale on page 31.

was somewhat disturbed at Mr. Caviness' assertion that Leverybodyduck tends to "get caught in the miasma of clichés that... kids routinely ignore"—and I would probably be completely livid if I knew what a "miasma of clichés" meant. You COMPLETELY MISSED the lyricists'

excellent use of several literary techniques throughout the album—namely, dramatic irony, alliteration, and the occasional pun. I find similarities between this album's lyrical content and the works of several masters: Lord Tennyson, Emily Dickinson, Prince, et al. In light of this perceived wrong, I feel it is my duty to challenge the reviewer to a one-on-one mud wrestling championship to the death. If grappling isn't his game, then I suppose perhaps a pie-eating contest (to the death, of course) would be suitable. Let me

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reiterate my firm belief

(nay, knowledge) that

Everybodyduck was

not given a fair shake

to be the musical, lyri-

cal, and political

geniuses they truly







are. I daresay it will be a difficult day for him to look himself in the mirror when he finally realizes this.

> Tim Brinkman via the internet

p.s. I would also like to make clear that being the drummer for this band has not biased me in any way.

his is regarding Dan Macintosh's review of Havalina Rail Co. Havalina is an original musical group that does not try to imitate "jazz of the '40s and '50s," but draws from many musical influences in which they incorporate their own unique '90s flavor and singing style. Of all the current alternative acts in the Christian scene today, Havalina is one of very few to get praises from secular press and radio. I'm sorry to be so harsh on you (my husband said I should just leave you alone, he had quite a good laugh), but I hate to see their talent and hard work be slandered.

> Judita Wignall via the internet

your magazine was lame. I thought it was "modern rock on cue," but it was really wussy crap Boyz II Men wanna-be crap. Steven Curtis Chapman, dc Talk, Jars of Clay and Dakota Motor Co all s**k. So quit writing about 'em you old geesers (sic).

> Bo Hawks Orange, TX

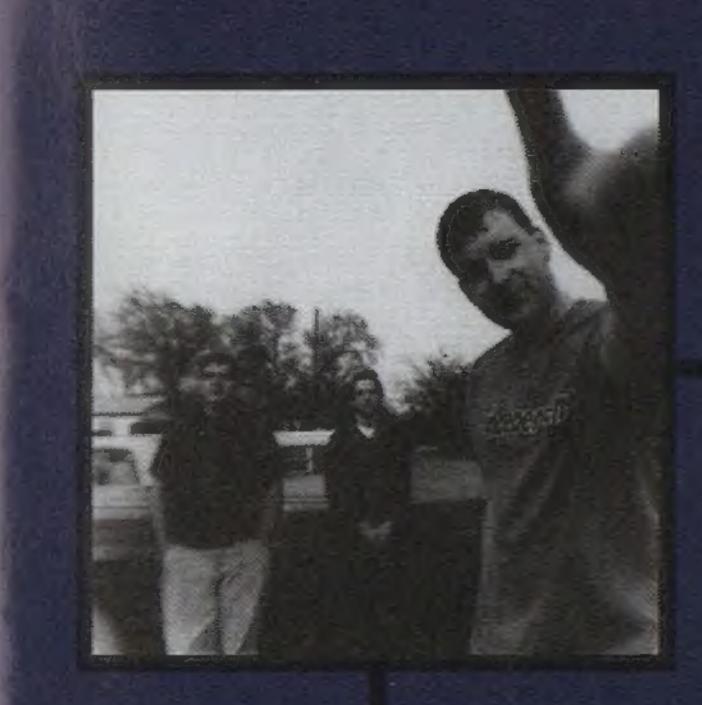
EDITOR'S RESPONSE: Hmm. "Boyz II Men wanna-be." Oh, yes, Six Feet Deep, Morella's Forest, Ghoti Hook, Push Start Wagon, Seven Day Jesus, Every Day Life ... we see what you mean. We'll get right on that. As for your final comment ... do you kiss your mother with that mouth?

onesty is one thing, but mocking people is another. Take Carman, for one example; why are you so cynical, so rude?

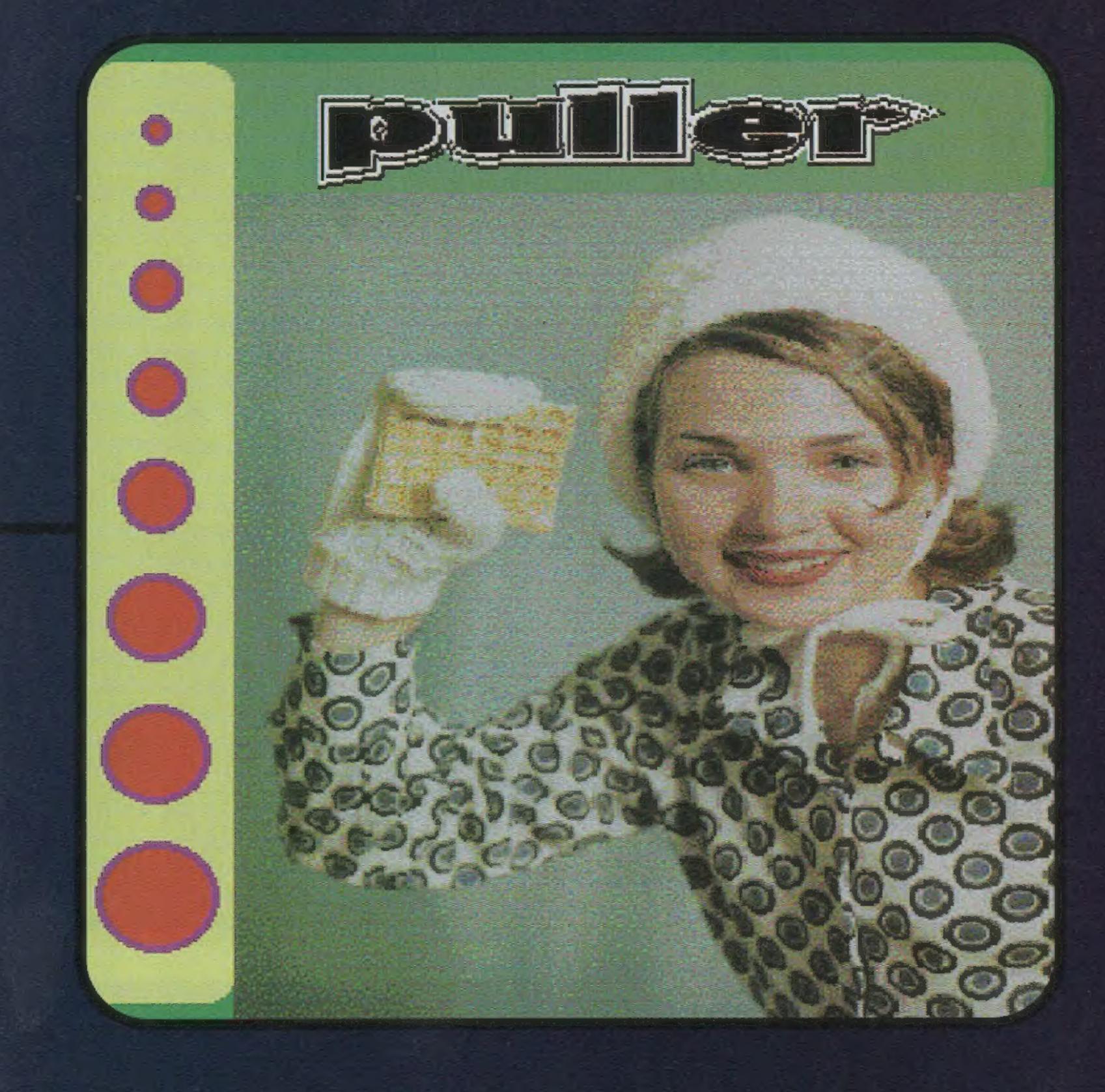
> Cheyenne Lucille Hill Grand Island, NY







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stu, ff we got

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: The only reference to Carman we can find is the, "oh, sure, and Carman will be on the cover of the next 7ball." Why should we put Carman on the cover of an alternative music magazine? We gave Steven Curtis Chapman a positive review, but we're not going to put him on the cover, either. If you saw a negative review of a Carman project, it wasn't in these pages ...

In your July-August issue, there was a photo of an old girl with the caption, "I have no idea who this is." I'll gladly identify the photo for you: In 1966, a movie was released under the name Jack the Ripper in Baltimore (titled Chamber of Horrors for TV). The lady in the photo was a prudish blue-blood socialite of Baltimore in the 1860's. This was one of the very few movies that was "gimmicked for theaters" by using a warning device (in this case, a "Horror Horn" or "Fear Flasher") to alert viewers to close their eyes and turn their heads before a terrifying scene would take place on the screen. For instance, a man jumped from the stagecoach in the film and broke his ankle; Jack the Ripper jumped from a train going over a bridge and landed right in the river; he also escaped from his imprisonment by cutting through his chain link restraints with an ax. Oooooh, yes! Scenes so horrifying the public needed grave warning before viewing the film.

Terry Lee Roth Baltimore, MD

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: You have a lot of time on your hands, don't you?

ANIMANIA:

Thanks to Randy Stephens for his kind words and for his toon below.

We love it! We don't get it, but we love it!

LOVE YOUR ZINE - Don't

Know if you can use me,
but I do toons (for kamikazeo

+ 1.06) wondering if you'd

use them. Send me a copy
if you do - I could keep

doing them for you if you'd

like. Thanks shandy pleas



You guys give great reviews and have an excellent format. The photo shots are sweet, as well. The Christian music industry really needs guys like you ... keep up the good work.

Jon Bullock Manhattan, KS

We'll print some more of your haikus next issue (remember, five syllables/seven syllables/five syllables ... by the way, we stole the whole idea from Richard Vance). Write to us at: Feedback, *7ball* magazine, P.O. Box 24925, Nashville, TN 37202. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and space.

7ballnovemberdecember1996



7BALL MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1996
NUMBER 9

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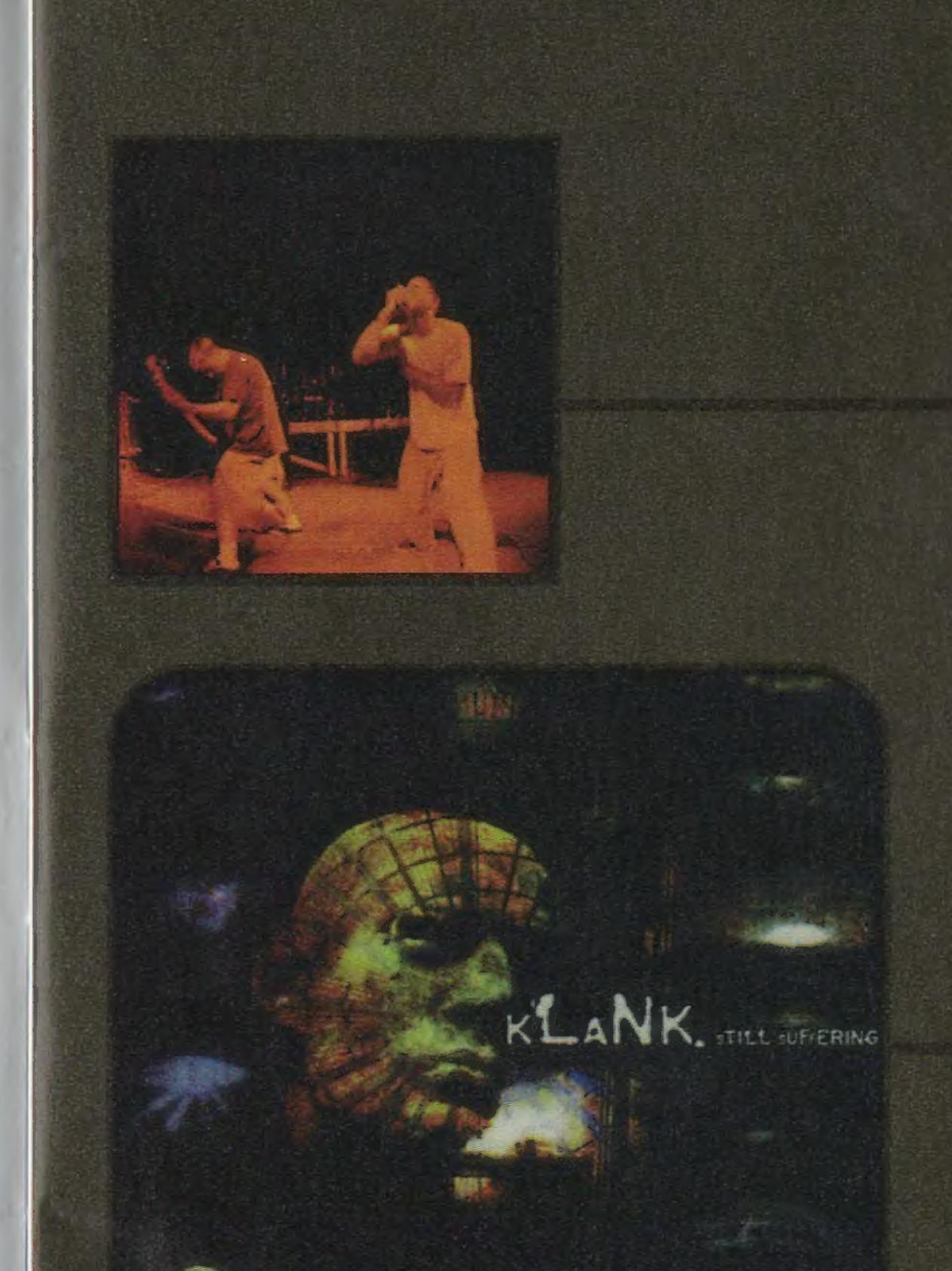
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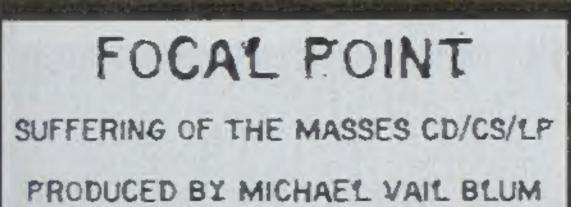
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CHRISTINE GLASS is the latest signing with Tattoo—and if her lush, modern pop demo is any indication, she will definitely be one of the artists to watch for in the future.

WEB SURVIVES THE ONSLAUGHT OF PRINTI Despite the growing popularity of "print" or "print media" (magazines, newspapers, political leaflets), the world wide web survives. THE CHRISTIAN MEDIA ONLINE COALITION is dedicated to the preservation of this historic medium. Member publications include:

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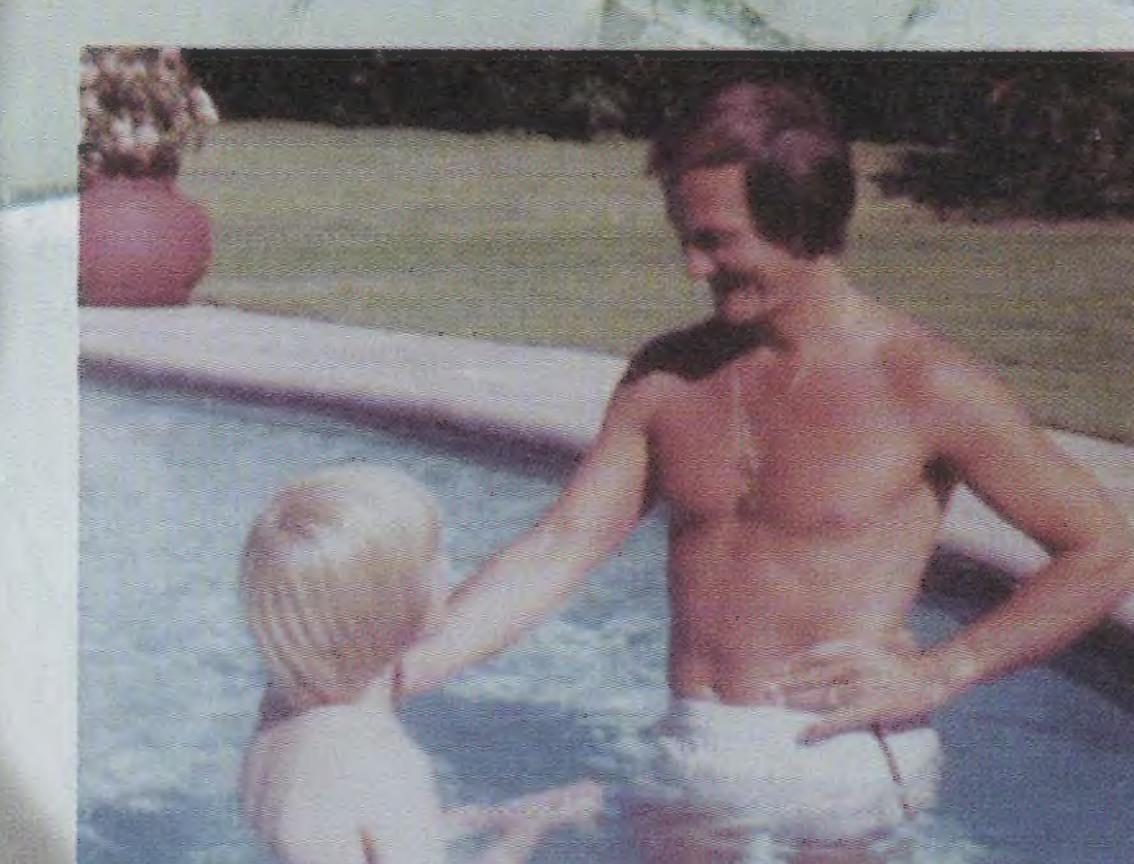
[http://users.aol.com/theprr/], as well as 7BALL: MODERN ROCK ONLINE [http://www.7ball.com]. Among these four you can cover a lot of territory in Christian music coverage.

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN is a new alternative Christmas compilation in stores next month, with such bands as ALEIXA, FLUFFY and VIGILANTES OF LOVE. The highlight for us is the SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER remake of "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

SARAH MASEN, who continues to reshape the face of pop music into her image, placed third (behind SHAWN COLVIN and SHERYL CROW) in the Gavin

Convention's annual GRIDdle, which rates new singles from adult alternative artists. She beat out such luminaries as Pearl Jam, Paula Cole and Wilco. The GRIDdle was voted on by 120 triple-A radio programmers.

Metal band HOLY SOLDIER recently guested on PAT BOONE'S television show (y'know, Pat's no stranger to metal). HSoldier ANDY ROBBINS has something of a history with Boone, who baptized him as a lad in the swim-



ming pool (here's the photo we posted on our web site two months ago). Since HS is breaking up (again), they're recording live tracks to use as part of a retrospective.

ALL STAR UNITED band members IAN ESKELIN and BRIAN WHITMAN recently visited the troops in Bosnia, just two guys and an acoustic guitar hopping from one helicopter ride to the next. They played 28 shows in 12 days, at more than 20 base camps.

STARFLYER 59 is in the studio recording Americana for March 1997. The band consists of JASON MARTIN and former Prayer Chain members WAYNE EVERETT and ERIC CAMPUZANO.



THE CHOIR (pictured are STEVE HINDALONG and DERRI DAUGHERTY) have been going through recordings of their To Bid Farewell Tour to assemble a live record (working title, Better Than Live), a CD-ROM and video.

WAPX, who will have played 175 dates by the end of the ear, release Life In General this month. Their record Teenage Politics sold 60,000 units.

JARS OF CLAY gets around! They recorded a song for the film The Long Kiss Goodnight, appeared on Conan O'Brien, opened for Sting, sold a million records and made appearances in both Rolling Stone and Details. They plan to start work on their second album soon.

As a final note, prayers go out to the family and friends of drummer STEVE MARSH, who was diagnosed with liver cancer just this past June and passed away late August. Steve was the drummer for ONE HUNDRED DAYS.

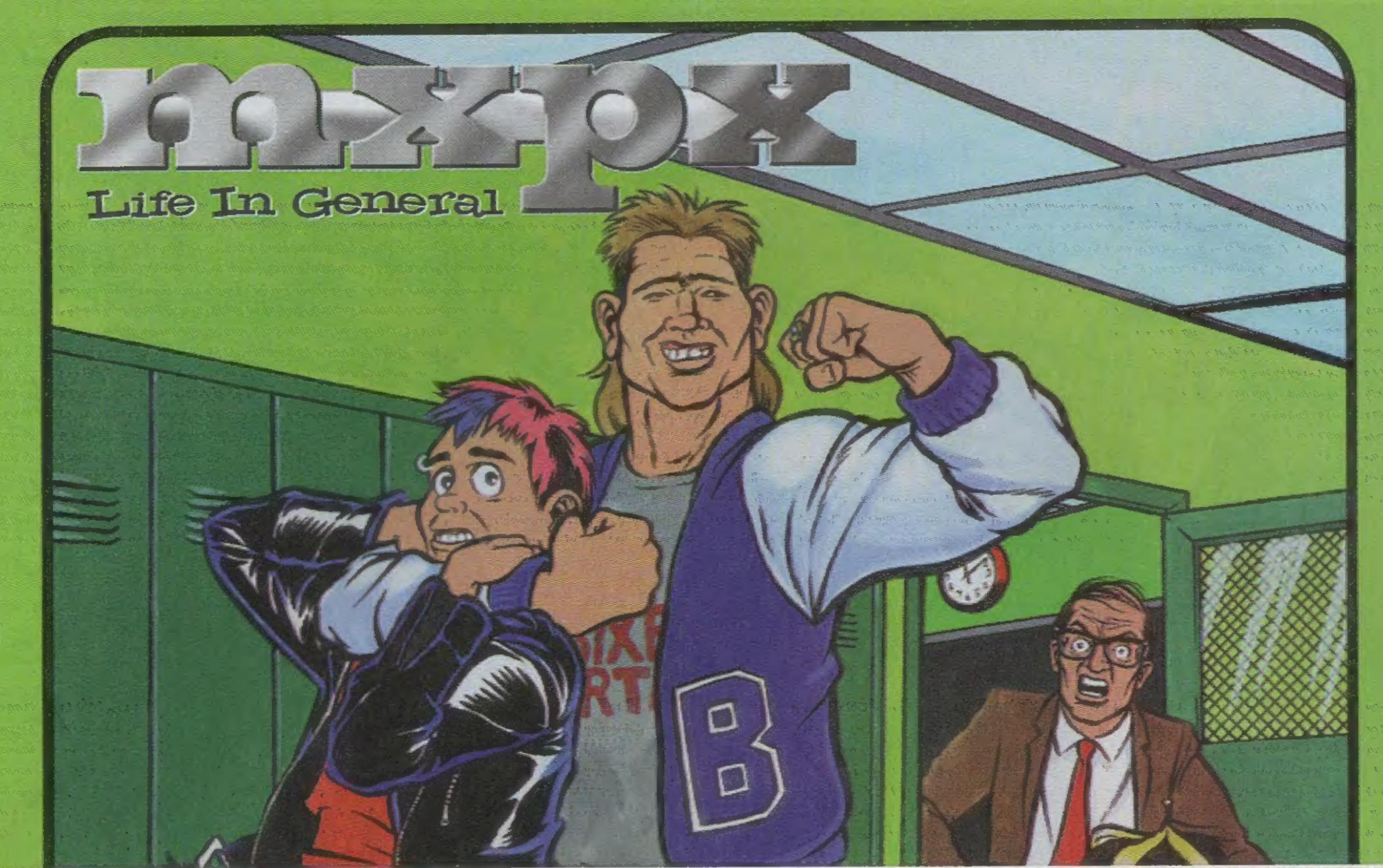
E-mail news to me at chris7b@7ball.com. However, it's still better to send bribes through the mail. Do not send indie projects! Check out our new indie column online, and e-mail Brad Caviness if you wish to be included. So there.

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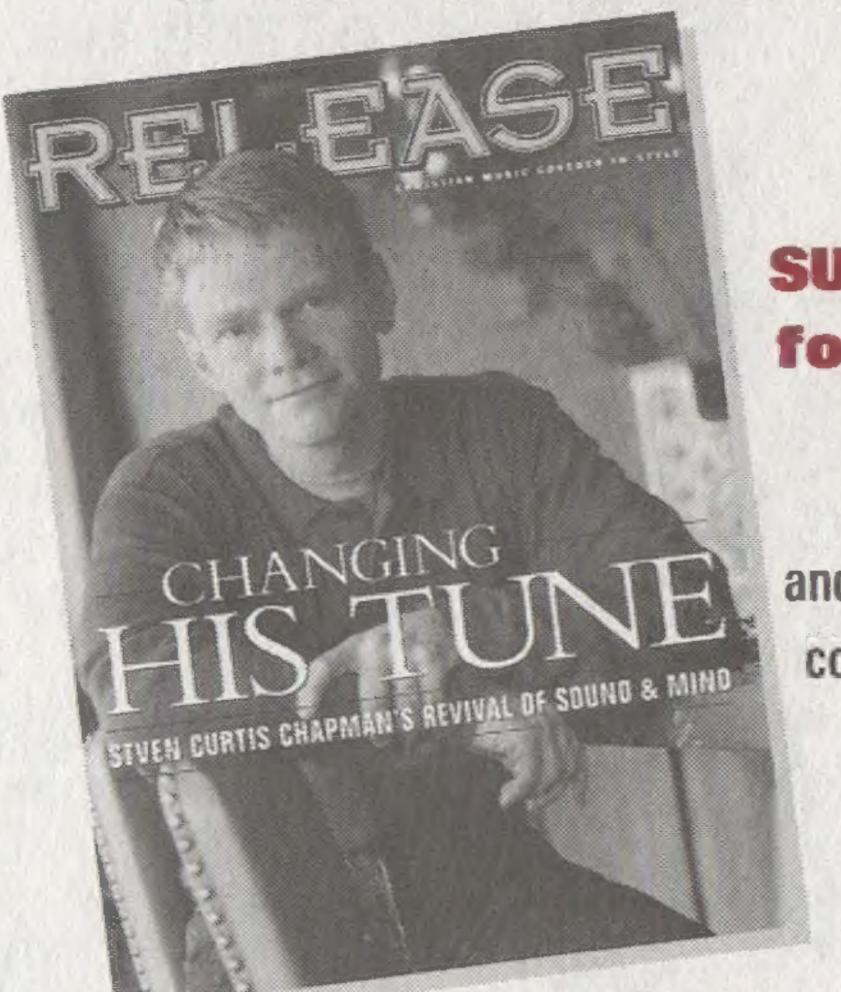
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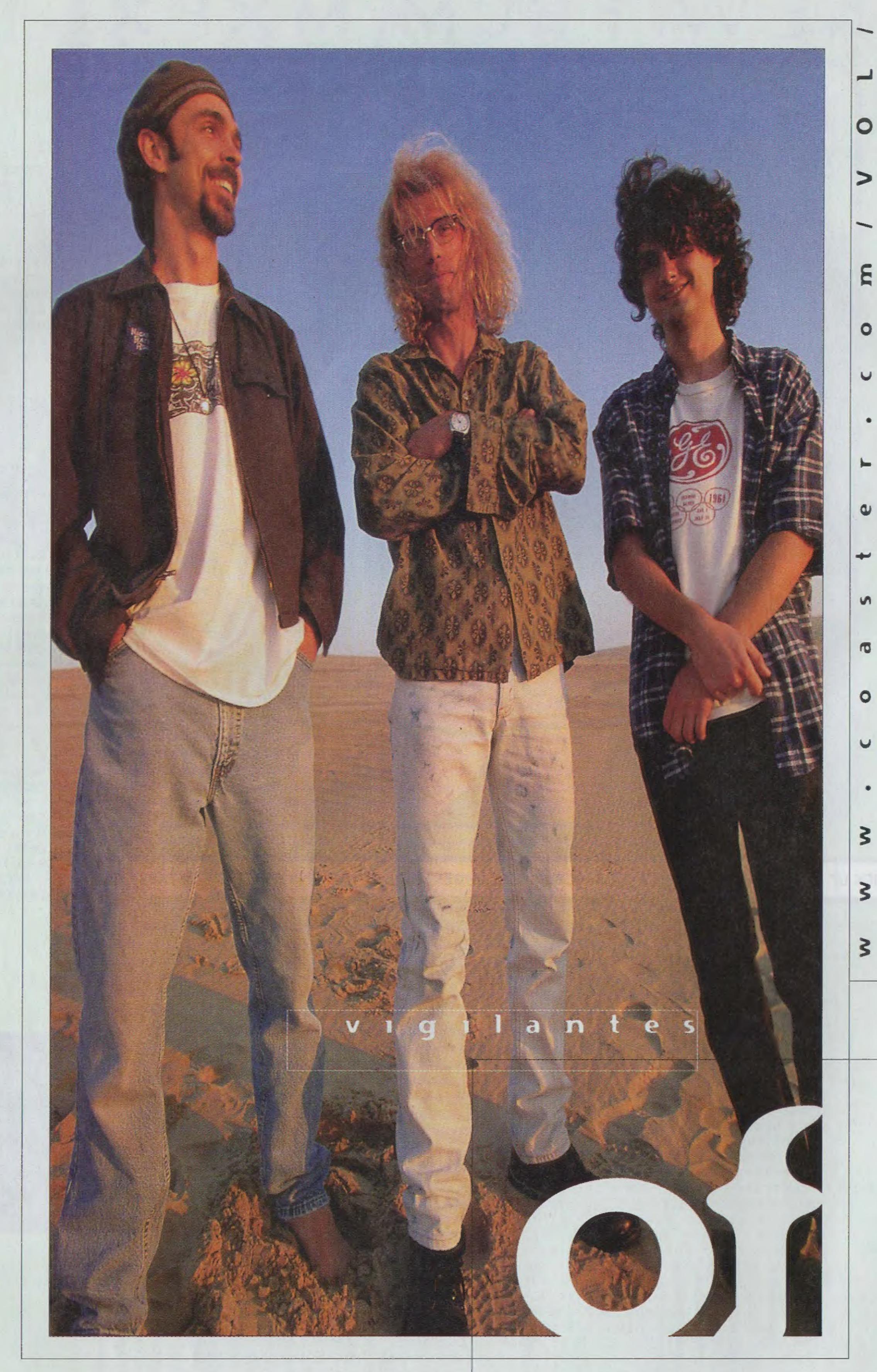
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o v e

T SOUNDS LIKE BILL MALLONEE IS OUT ON THE FRONT PORCH. THE ATHENS, GEORGIA, SOUND-TRACK TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION IS FILLED WITH CHIRPING LOCUSTS, "HEY, NEIGHBORS," SQUAWKING CROWS AND MALLONEE PLUCKING A GUITAR. HIS WIFE IS HEADING OUT FOR SOME POST-LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL GROCERY SHOPPING. AND IF BRAINS RATTLED AS THEY REELED, BILL MALLONEE'S MIGHT DROWN OUT THE SOUND OF HIS LIPS, WHICH ALREADY HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME KEEPING PACE WITH THE THOUGHTS IN HIS HEAD.

THOSE THOUGHTS, RUNNING IN AND OUT OF EACH OTHER LIKE CURRENTS IN A SEA, ARE PART AND PARCEL OF A COMPLETELY NON-COMPARTMENTALIZED CHRISTIAN LIFE. SINCE 1989 THAT LIFE HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND VIGILANTES OF LOVE, A "THINKING MAN'S ROOTS ROCK BAND" WHOSE COLLEGE AND AAA RADIO AIRPLAY AND ENDLESS TOURING HAS EARNED A SELECT FOLLOWING OF ATTENTIVE FANS. IN SUPPORT OF ITS FIVE ALBUMS, VOL HAS ADDED EXTRA BAND MEMBERS AND TOUR SUPPORT FOR ITS TRAVELS. BUT NOW THE BAND HAS SETTLED "BACK INTO BEING THE LITTLE AMERICAN SPIRIT THREE-PIECE IN A CARGO VAN."

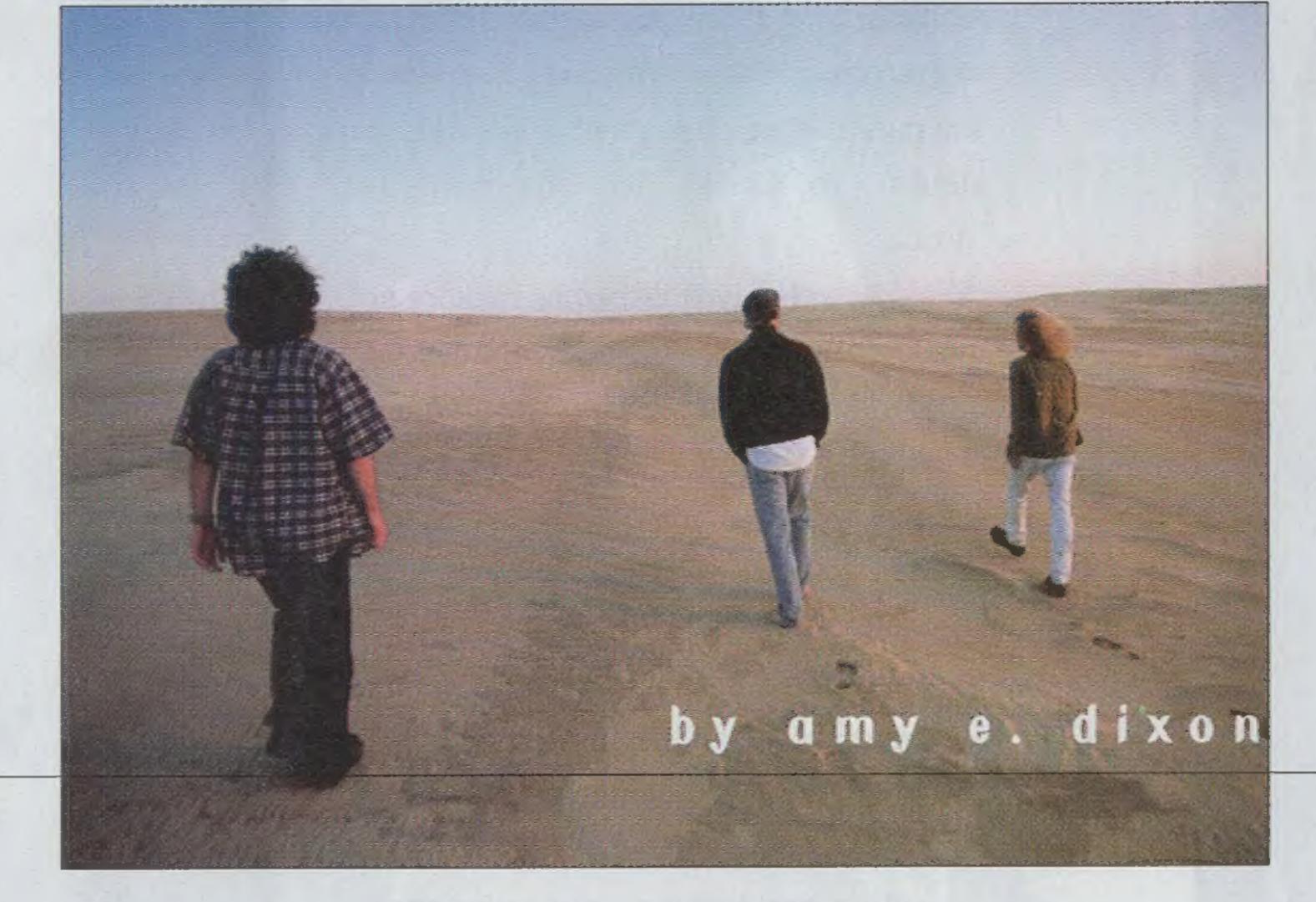
"THE LORD HAS BLESSED ME WITH TWO GUYS IN THE BAND, BOTH OF WHOM ARE CHRISTIANS. AND SO IT'S ALMOST LIKE A BIBLE STUDY THAT ROCKS IN ITS OWN WHEEL," HE SAYS. ALTHOUGH THE REGULAR TURNOVER OF VOL MEMBERS OVER THE YEARS HAVE BROUGHT IN BOTH CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS, MALLONEE FINDS THE CURRENT SITUATION THE MOST NURTURING FOR A HEAVILY TOURING BAND.

The latest

release, Vol., is a 70minute retrospective that includes 12 previously released songs. Four new pieces were recorded with current bassist/background vocalist Chris Bland and drummer Tom Crea with the help of John Keane (R.E.M., Indigo Girls, new 10,000 Maniacs, et al) and his studio. Although this is their sixth album, Vol is the first Vigilantes' record that will include major distribution directly into the Christian market and no one is more glad

for the new distribution than Mallonee himself.

"We've been out there working pretty hard," says Mallonee, "and I'm really proud of the band and the guys that've made just great sacrifices to do this sort



of thing. I would hope Christian into Vol. "I'd say a lot of our fans are Christians. I'd say they're people who aren't satisfied audiences would recognize that with what's generally going on in the mainstream or alternative industry, although they're very here's a band that's gotten ahip to it. They just seem to be a little unsatisfied; they want something that's got a little more good bit of praise from otherchallenge to it."

folks. Here's a band that's kind of out there doing it in the general and female, Christian and non-Christian, college-type crowds sometimes drive hours to the market. We haven't played direct-next bar or coffeehouse so they can hear Dylan-esque lyrics put to garage-y roots folk-rock ly to the contemporary Christian music.

market. We're a band that's The compilation brings together the simple acoustic folk rock found on the debut maybe been a little overlooked in *Jugular* with the glossier-than-real-live, louder and more radio ready sound of *Welcome to* that market. Certainly our heart *Struggleville*. "Now we split the difference," Mallonee says of the current musical direction. "I'm a and our profession is with the big Neil Young fan; I like that teach-the-band-a-song-and-record-it-five-minutes-later method, so the music has all of its loose feel to it."

Even without an official introduction into the Christian market, it's not been uncommon for Christians to hook REGARDLESS OF PRODUCTION VARIABLES WITH ITS UNCOMPROMISED MUSIC, VOL
HAS ALWAYS BEEN DRIVEN BY AN EMPHASIS ON
LYRICS. HAVING BEEN A CHRISTIAN SINCE 17,
THOUGH NOT AWARE OF THE CHRISTIAN MUSIC
MARKET, MALLONEE'S FAITH AS IT APPLIES TO
THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS BEEN OF GREAT CONSIDERATION.

"I WAS ALWAYS STRUGGLING WITH THIS ISSUE: 'THIS IS THE GOSPEL. THIS IS THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST. THIS IS THE CALL OF CHRIST. HOW DOES THAT LOOK IN THE REAL WORLD?'

"WHAT DOES CHRISTIANITY LOOK
LIKE IN THAT SORT OF NITTY-GRITTY
WORLD OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T PROFESS
ANY KIND OF CHRISTIAN FAITH, WHO IN
FACT, ARE GENERATION-X AND DON'T
BELIEVE IN MUCH OF ANYTHING?"

Mallonee's lyrics may be directed toward that crowd who will never darken the door of a church, but he believes "the Christians should get it the deepest, because that's the perspective that it's written from. It's written very much from the perspective of one man's life who is a debtor to Christ and His generous grace."

His lyrical themes explore sin, redemption, salvation, love, loss—all the things that inspire most music. Much of the time, his faith and lyrics seem inseparable. "You have to know who your audience is and what the needs are. You can't use the same old buzz words and formula to a group of believers who have ceased to believe in anything. Christians have a vocabulary to describe feelings of alienation and lostness that we're sometimes plagued with, even when we're people of faith. The non-believer has those same feelings. So, they're left walking around with a very confused set of notions that are competing for their attention.

"SO, WHEN I WRITE A
SONG LIKE 'BOLT ACTION'
(ABOUT AN ASSASSIN), BUT PUT
IN ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHET
JEREMIAH CALLING PEOPLE TO
REPENTANCE AND FAITH, IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A LITTLE
KIND OF TWEAK TO CALL PEOPLE BACK TO SOMETHING
THAT'S MORE SOLID."

The compilation, filled with what are perhaps

Vol's most overlooked themes, Christian includes a song about Vincent Van Gogh. "Here's a guy who was just trying to speak something of himself, something of his heart, something of the truth as he saw it to a world that wasn't really listening to him. The thought actually gets a little broader towards the last verse, though ... it's not just a linear song about Van Gogh, but it's about anybody who tries to stand up and say something to a world that's not listening. Don't lose heart. Keep saying what you need to say."

When it comes to saying what needs to be said, Mallonee is fearless in calling artists, especially Christians, to not be wishy-washy in their messages. He finds a great lacking in the outdated sound and propaganda of mainstream Christian music. But only very recently has he found positive direction in young Christian alternative bands.

"I'M REALLY JUST KIND
OF TIRED OF THE VERY EXTREME
ABSTRACT KIND OF ALTERNATIVE
ROCK THAT DOESN'T REALLY MEAN
ANYTHING. I GET A LOT OF THE
FRESH, NEW, YOUNG RELEASES
DUMPED IN MY LAP, AND I THINK,
'WELL, MAN, GIVE ME SOME INTELLIGENT STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT YOU
THINK AND FEEL ABOUT GOD, OR THE
UNIVERSE!"

Mallonee says a lot of what Vol tries to do is put words in people's mouths. "When somebody comes up and says, 'You know, I'm not sure what it is you're saying, but you put the words in my mouth to how I've been feeling for a long time.' That's the greatest compliment. Even if we never get the point of being able to talk about Christ specifically, still as a songwriter you're able to put something in their hearts that helps them understand a little bit more about themselves. That sometimes is the very first building block to listening to God, who is always there pulling you in, wooing you, giving you reasons to believe."





TAKE ONE MASS communications ern rock band, Skillet follows in the footsteps of of harmonic stuff that doesn't happen a lot in major who hadn't played his drums in three such recent Christian music pioneers as Curious this type of music." years. Add a classically-trained pianist and Fools, Raspberry Jam and Sixpence None the make him sing and play bass. Mix thoroughly Richer, But their niche is more grungy, a la Pearl with a grunge guitarist who has a master's Jam, or Nirvana without the dark, gothic overdegree in composition. Sprinkle in some influences from Russ Taff, Michael W. Smith, play grunge. Rush, and Iron Maiden. Toss it all in a skillet and Mmm ... tasty.

house lights dim and the stage lights come up, for "one show only." Skillet explodes like water thrown into hot grease. Gritty, diamond-in-the-rough vocals; clean, melodic guitar riffs; and songwriting set to the rhythm of a thunderstorm mark Skillet as a band to watch.

Hailed as ForeFront's first true mod-

tones. Not that the members of Skillet set out to it."

Lead guitarist Ken Steorts was playbake under the spotlight for 9 months and you — ing with a Green Day sound-alike band called got the heavy, alternative groove of Skillet. Fingerpaint, while singer/bassist John Cooper was with Funky Dynamo ('nuff said). Drummer Cooper. Soft spoken, articulate and self- Trey McClurkin was ready to sell his drums and effacing they may be one on one. But when the invest in a mutual fund when they got together

three years has been modern chamber music,

"Everybody is always looking for the grunge band influences, but we don't really like grunge," laughs McClurkin. "We never listen to

"It's not that we don't like the music we're playing ..." Steorts begins.

"Yeah, we love our music, we just don't like anybody else's grunge music," laughs

"No, really, we love some of the bands that are out. But they are not our influences," continues Steorts. "The music reflects our pas-"A lot of my influences over the past sion and our zeal for God," he says.

"We wanted to be pertinent with this real symphonic stuff," says Steorts with a generation, with what's going on now," adds a straight face, "which accounts for some of the more serious John Cooper. And he says the band weirdness in our music. It will probably just get has no hidden agenda. They just want to see weirder as we write more together. There is a lot people get saved. "If you're going to reach peo-

ple where they are you have to play the music they like."

www.ardentrecords.com

For Skillet, being pertinent means not only playing ferociously honest music, but writing intensely upfront lyrics. And while this highenergy power trio from Memphis would love the opportunity to play for a secular audience, they are not willing to sacrifice the integrity of the message.

"It's about preaching the Kingdom to you're going to Heaven, but you're in an eternal to preach the Gospel. Kingdom right now! The Kingdom of God is being built in our hearts. People don't hear that a lot. for years, individually and with other bands," Sometimes I feel like I need to explain the message to people who may not understand," he says. "You can't just use clichés or big Biblical terms that people don't hear a lot."

"We want to be able to reveal parts

Steorts. "For instance, in the song 'Safe With You, we talk about the hugeness of Creator God and the intimate Lover of our soul. The dichotomy of God; that's the kind of thing we want to talk about."

Clearly, Skillet is an overtly evangelical band. Their mission is to see people get saved. And they make no bones about their desire to get into the secular marketplace. They are not however, looking for a mainstream the people," Cooper exclaims. "It's not just that record deal—just a larger platform from which

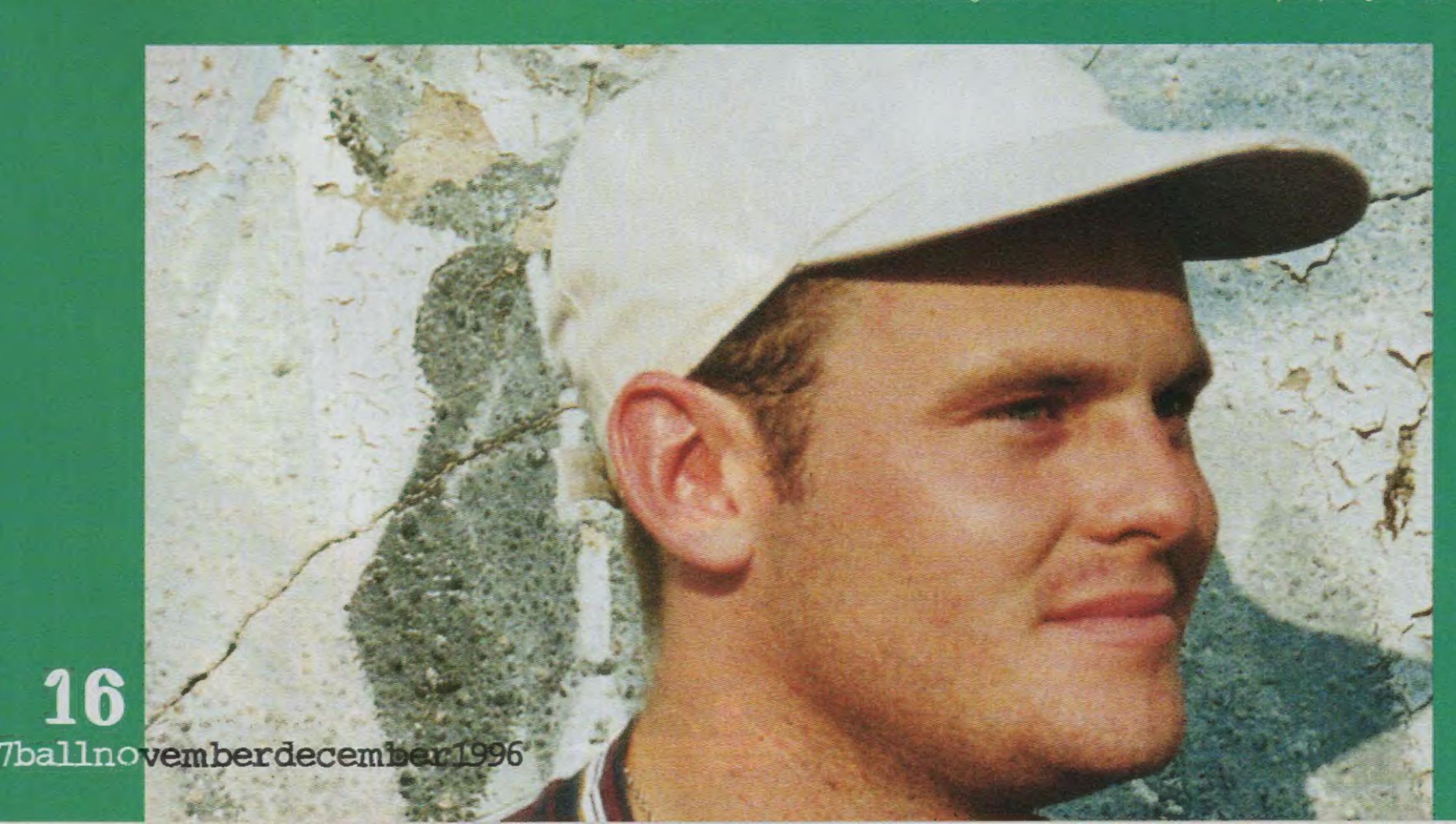
> "We've been playing Christian events Cooper elaborates. "And we want to continue to do that, but if we have the opportunity to go into a club or a secular venue, we'd love to do that, too."

"The best show we ever played was at of God that people don't talk about a lot." adds Club 704B, a Christian club in Memphis," says

drummer Trey McClurkin. "It was obvious that a lot of people needed prayer, but we had our little set to do, you know, all these songs we had to plow through. But we hardly played any songs at all. We just turned everything off and prayed. Ken just played guitar chords for about 35 minutes. A ton of people accepted Christ and then we finished the set."

"After that we just celebrated!" Cooper added. "We played a bunch of heavy worship songs. We went crazy and the people were worshiping God with all their hearts. Those are the best times."

"I've had some of the best times in our practices when some of these songs come together," Ken says. "When God first moves me in these songs, that's the sweetest time. Then when people get touched by the songs the same way I was touched when I wrote it, that's the









nless you've seen a photo, the average music fan might be hard pressed to pick Sarah Masen out in a crowd. In an industry where mainstream artists make fashion statements with flashy clothes and trendy hairstyles, Masen may be a little too normal.

Just ask the members of Black Eyed Sceva. They spent an entire day hanging out with Masen at a summer festival and never realized she was a fellow artist until much later. Her nonchalant attitude and "normalness" amid the typical music industry hype has quickly separated her from the traditional Christian pop artist set.

"My ignorance towards the way the business is run and that sort of innocence, I think that's something others think is fresh," Masen says. "I don't quite understand the business, but I really don't want to understand it. I don't want to be ignorant, but I want to be natural and not feel pressured."

By Christian music standards, Masen is a fresh face with an unusual outlook on her craft. She has been compared to Sarah McLaughlin, Sinead O'Connor and Victoria Williams, among others, thanks to her distinguishable folksy sound. But while Masen admits she has listened to those artists from time to time, any similarities are most likely coincidental and hardly intentional.

"A lot of the new bands, I really haven't heard of them," she admits. "That's not really a virtue. That's not something to magnify like, 'Wow, she hasn't heard of all these people.' The only reason I haven't heard them is because I haven't had the time. I'm always reading for school or talking to my family and friends. Sometimes I am

www.rethink.com

become too influenced
by other music, but that
isn't what really stops me
because I want to grow from
other artists. I just don't have
time to listen."

Even when Masen did have time to listen, she was much more interested in the artistic process than the idea of musical stardom. It was detailed curiosity that sent Masen traveling down a path she never would have imagined for herself.

"Since I was little, I was always the kind of person who'd stick the headphones on, sit down, open the liner notes, flip the record over and read everything from the 'thank you's' to the lyrics of the

by chad bonham

songs, the titles of the songs, to who played on the album," Masen says. "I was always intrigued by that."

Her music career didn't really get going until her grand-mother gave her an acoustic guitar.

She started learning chords and picked up ideas here and there but never has been able to pinpoint just where her influences originated. "I don't know," she ponders. "Where does style come

A friend encouraged her to start writing music; the church and coffeehouse concerts soon followed. One of Masen's fellow church-goers helped her finance a demo tape

from?"

masen



that notable artists Jeff Johnson and Derri Daugherty co-produced.

Perhaps the strangest twist to this story came when Masen's brother Dave (who also plays drums in her band) e-mailed a publishing question to producer extraordinaire and re:think records founder Charlie Peacock. Peacock didn't have the answer but said he'd love to hear Masen's demo. "As the doors opened, we walked through them," Masen says. "But we didn't push anything."

Masen had always respected Peacock as a producer and an artist. He was one of a handful of artists Masen paid much attention to as an impressionable young musician, and now, the almost legendary Peacock was working his magic with her music. It was a process Masen found comfortable and quite enjoyable.

"Charlie did what Charlie does," she says. "You can definitely tell that he's kissed the music. It was so appropriate. He's very intuitive and sensitive about what's good for something and what's

too much. Charlie added an edge to the music, and when I say 'edge,' I don't mean intensity—although part of that is intensity—but it's just fuller and it's more fun."

One area Masen didn't need help with was

her songwriting, a talent that has developed well beyond her 21-years of life experience. Much of her inspiration comes from personal thoughts on relationships. Relationships with God and relationships with people. "What always inspires me to write are things I'm going through or a thought that's been provoked in my heart and in my mind. I love literature, too. I love words. I love God's

creation of language and I think there's incredible power in words."

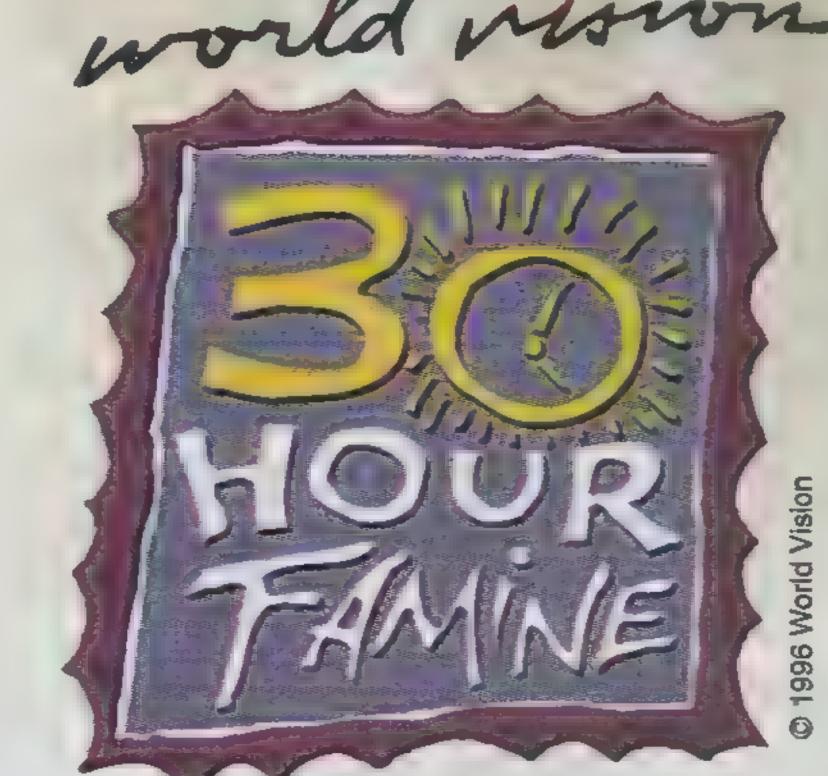
Masen is also finding there's power in music, and until just recently, had never come to grips with the idea that this music thing just may be her future. She moved from her native Detroit—where she was one year away from college graduation—to Nashville. Masen continues her studies, but her desire to be a teacher (or is it a librarian, now?) has fallen down a couple of rungs from her priority ladder.

"I never took my music so seriously that I was overly ambitious. Everything has been a surprise to me. I never did plan on doing this as a career. I took it seriously in that I was serious about writing really good music and I took the content seriously and the music seriously, but looking at it as a career, I never took it seriously until the opportunities were actually there. I'm much more realistic when it comes to that sort of thing, but with the content, I've always been very idealistic and intense. I still don't know what's going to happen with music as a career."

More than anything, Masen just wants to be real. In the world of Christian contemporary pop music, that task is much harder than it looks. "I really want to try eliminating the distance between the audience and the artist as much as I can, without neglecting the responsibility that the spotlight puts on a person," she says. "By the grace of God, I'll learn to deal with that in humility. I want to open up to people and welcome them into a friendship with me. I know I can't sit down and have a cup of tea with everybody, but if I could, I'd like to do that because I don't want to give the wrong impression that they're less important members of the Body of Christ."

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the long awaited debut from the former lead singer of my little dog china produced and mixed by michael knott, a&r exec. michael sean black





SIX FEED by Michael TenBrink

om Wohlfield, drummer for Cleveland,
Ohio's Six Feet Deep, is attempting to
clarify things for me. "Our music is different from punk rock," he asserts. "Our stuff is
heavier, and more complicated. This new album
will even appeal to the metal crowd. It's just
basic hardcore."

The new album Wohlfield speaks of is The Road Less Travelled, the band's sopho-

more release. The band—Wohlfield, vocalist Myk Porter, guitarist Matt Traxler, and bassist Bryan Gray—considers the album "more mature" than its predecessor. Critics continue to call the band "stompcore" or "metalcore," and compare them to everyone from White Zombie and

Biohazard to Pantera
("I don't like that
one!" says Wohlfield).

Regardless,
this is indeed a road
less traveled, in more
ways than one.
Hardcore music is, by

the mainstream,
so one can imagine the reception
a "Christian hardcore" band might
get. Six Feet Deep
brings to all who listen
an upfront message
of the pain, confusion,
and comfort of living
the Christian life in a
fallen world.

Wohlfield admits, "I understand that the kind of music we do isn't gonna hit huge, and that's okay. This is what we like, and we don't want to change it. We are in a

state of transition right now. We did the 'ministry' route for a long time, and now, instead of playing so many Christian shows, we're trying to hit the secular scene more."

He is quick to add, "I don't want people to think we're doing this for the money, because we're not making any! We're just trying to start out the way a normal band would. We're hitting the Cleveland club scene pretty hard. This is the market we want, and we really feel called to be there. We don't want to change just because of any money that might be out there."



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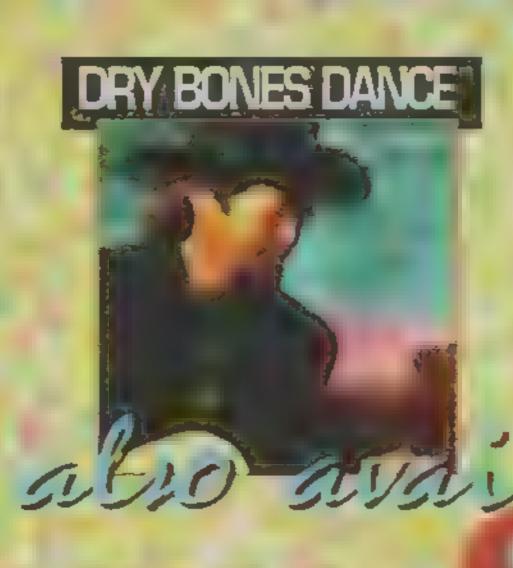
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In the popular vernacular, the rap duo Run-DMC is considered an old school act. They were rapping back in the days before it was hip to use the derogatory "B" word for women, to brag about criminal activities, and be seen in videos downing 40 oz bottles of malt liqueur. Instead, Run-DMC is from the generation that called women fly girls, bragged about how well they could rap, and could be seen in their videos showing off their tennis shoes—of all things.

To say rap has changed since then is to state the obvious. And though Run has not evolved into an elderly gangsta, he has changed—and for the better. He now calls himself Rev. Run; he and his partner DMC have recorded Christian influenced rap records as Run-DMC; and now Rev. Run has his own Christian record label called Rev. Run Records.

Having Run join the Christian music scene is not like having just another secular star making Christian records. It's more akin to having a legend of modern music: Run-DMC are pioneers. They are still respected by the young toughs of today's scene because they've created some of the best rap music that's ever been

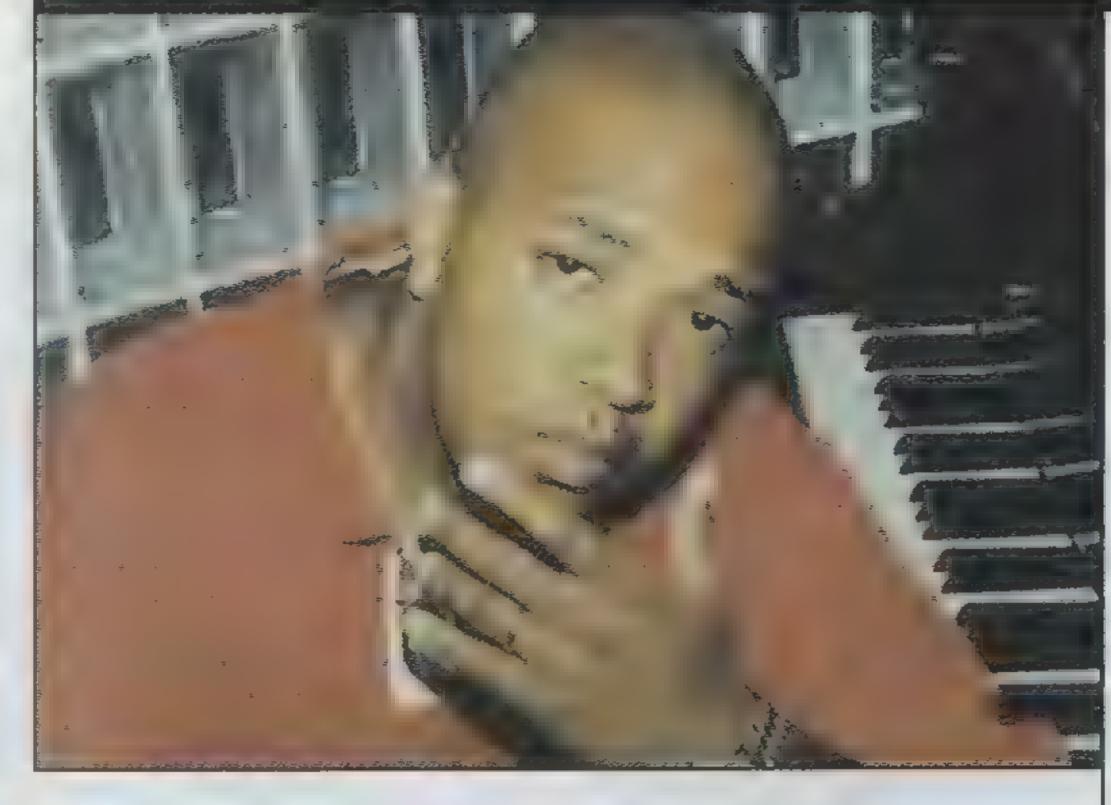
made—new or old school. Also, because they were one of the first acts to mix rap with rock. And though they haven't always been overtly Christian in their content, they've always been positive and life-affirming.

I can still remember going with a friend of mine to see them headline a concert called the "Fresh Fest" at the Long Beach arena in Long Beach, California. While it's likely that there are as many white kids as there are African Americans at rap concerts these days, I laugh at the thought that the last white person I saw that night was the woman who took my ticket as I entered the hall—and she looked at me like I was at the wrong show. This was still before Public Enemy became the rapping equivalent of CNN for the African American community; but at that time, rap music was primarily an African American art form, and Run-DMC were indeed the kings of the hill.

Run believes music fans are ready for something more positive than what is currently in vogue in the rap scene. "They're looking for it a lot," remarks Run. "They want to know about it. There are two sides to everything. You get tired of people screaming profanity at you all day. Even the worst gangstas don't swear at their mothers." Run not only believes people are ready for something more positive, he also believes he's the right man for the job.

"I think I'm the person that can bring it through, and not be too preachy. Run-DMC has never been a negative group. I've always made fun records—you know, 'My Adidas' and 'You Be Illin'.' That's the way to do it. I believe I have the combination—God has given it to me."

With his name and reputation, Run is able to take Christian rap where it has never been. "I had a meeting with (director) Penny Marshall, and she took some of the groups off my label and put them into a movie. It's a new Whitney Houston movie called *Preacher's Wife*. They're in the movie, they're on the soundtrack, and some great things like that." Along with the groups on his label, Run continues to keep a high profile in the public's eye.



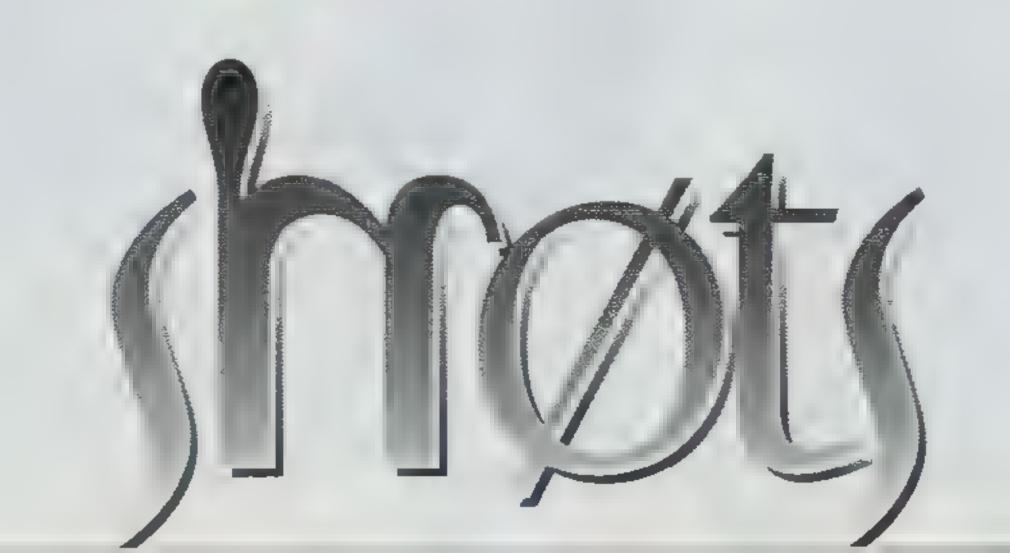
by Dan MacIntosh

"I'm on the number one station in New York Hot 97 every day with 'Rev. Run's Words of Wisdom."

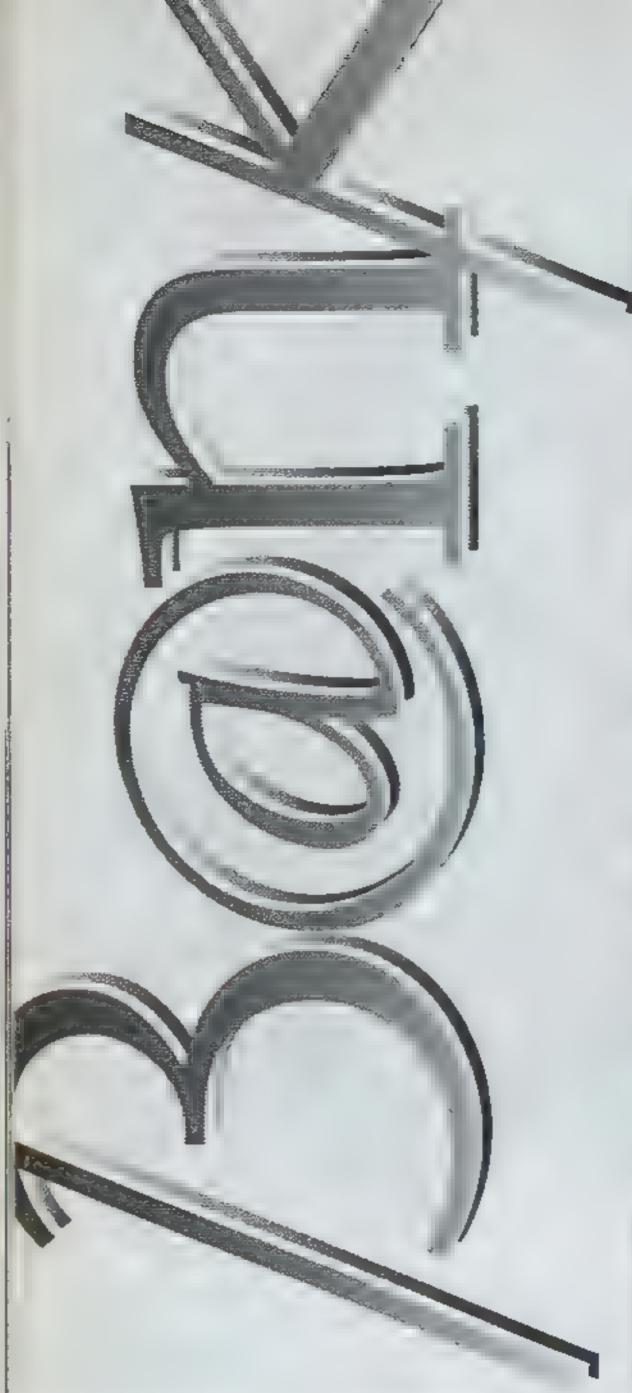
As if all this weren't enough, Run's about to venture into theater, too. He's set to star in a production of the

Gospel musical My Grandmother Prayed For Me. This should come as no surprise; trying something new is just part of Run's character. "Those who are on the edge," he advises, "are the ones who can reach over and grab the grapes."

His outspoken stand for Christ is certainly not the publicity stunt some public figures have tried. "This isn't all my choice for going all this radical for Jesus. I didn't choose Him; He chose me. This isn't my idea of a gimmick. I tell people. 'Look, faced with all those gangsta rappers selling millions, I could have come up with a better gimmick than this.' If I really wanted a gimmick, all I had to do was take a gun and act hard."







precious death

hris Scott can't exactly remember the last time Precious

Death played a live show. "I think it was sometime last summer," he says. "I guess it was in California but I'm really not
sure."

The lead singer for one of Christian music's most popular retro hard rock bands (with a modern metal twist) probably didn't know it would be the last time his band was ever going to play in front of a live audience. Maybe he wishes he had written that down somewhere or something. Then again, maybe not.

"I'm not sad that it's over," Scott says. "It seems to have run its course. It did what we said we wanted it to do. Everyone in the band feels very fulfilled and to keep going now would be like getting out and pushing the car instead of driving it. Nobody wants to kick a dead horse."

It wouldn't be fitting for a band known for its hard-hitting style to go out softly. So in lieu of a farewell tour (a la PFR), Scott and company decided to record a third and final album. Drummer Roger Sampson had already moved from L.A. to Baltimore, so Scott enlisted Blackball's drummer to fill-in.

"I remember when I first started playing shows and everything was so new," Scott says. "And I'd see these guys in bands that had been playing for years and they were still out there, trying to make it work and it just wasn't happening anymore. I'd rather end Precious Death on a strong note and not keep going until it becomes a mockery of itself."

The new self-titled project was produced by an unlikely Gene Eugene. Scott says the process was "a piece of cake" for the modern rock pioneer even though the hard music stylings of PD may seem to be out of his jurisdiction. Yet that kind of musical flexibility is something Scott is quite good at himself as the lead singer for two bands with two sounds. "I really don't have a problem switching gears," Scott says. "I'm the kind of person who likes a lot of different kinds of music. I can translate what I like into whatever music I'm doing at the time."

Now that Precious Death is officially a wrap (well, 98% official), Scott plans to put all of his creative energy into Blackball. The band has only played somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 shows and would like to tour next spring. That would be on the heels of its second album, which Scott says should be out in February. He's currently writing material with a scheduled studio date of early 1997.

Scott averages around six hours of sleep every night. On top of his music ministry, he holds down a full-time job for 50 hours a week and takes three college

Precious Death
was absent the day
school photos
were taken.

classes each
semester. Did we
mention he's married and teaches a
Sunday School
class?

real tight schedule," Scott says.
"Life passes by very
quickly. I believe
that the godliest
thing to do is to
use it and not
waste it."

members
of Ghoti
Hook some credit—they're
smarter than
they think they
are. On the surface, a song like
"Dry Run" is a
gross, funny
song about eating junk food
and getting sick;
dig a little deep-

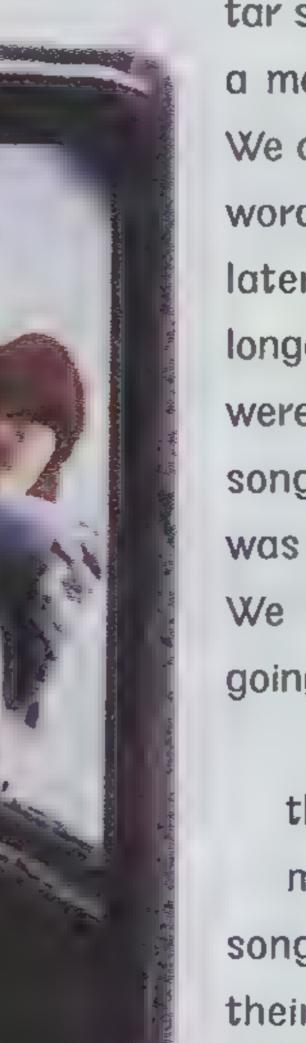
er and the spiri-

tual "garbage in/garbage



out" insight becomes apparent. "Super Sumo" deals with deep issues about self-esteem and pride. "Tract Boy" warns that insensitive witnessing begets insensitive responses.

Am I stretching things just a bit? According to the members of Ghoti Hook, yes. "The way we come up with songs," guitarist Conrad Tolosa says, "we write all the gui-



tar stuff and put
a melody on top.
We come with up
words that fit
later. For the
longest time we
were playing
songs and Joel
was mumbling.
We were just
going, 'la, la, la."

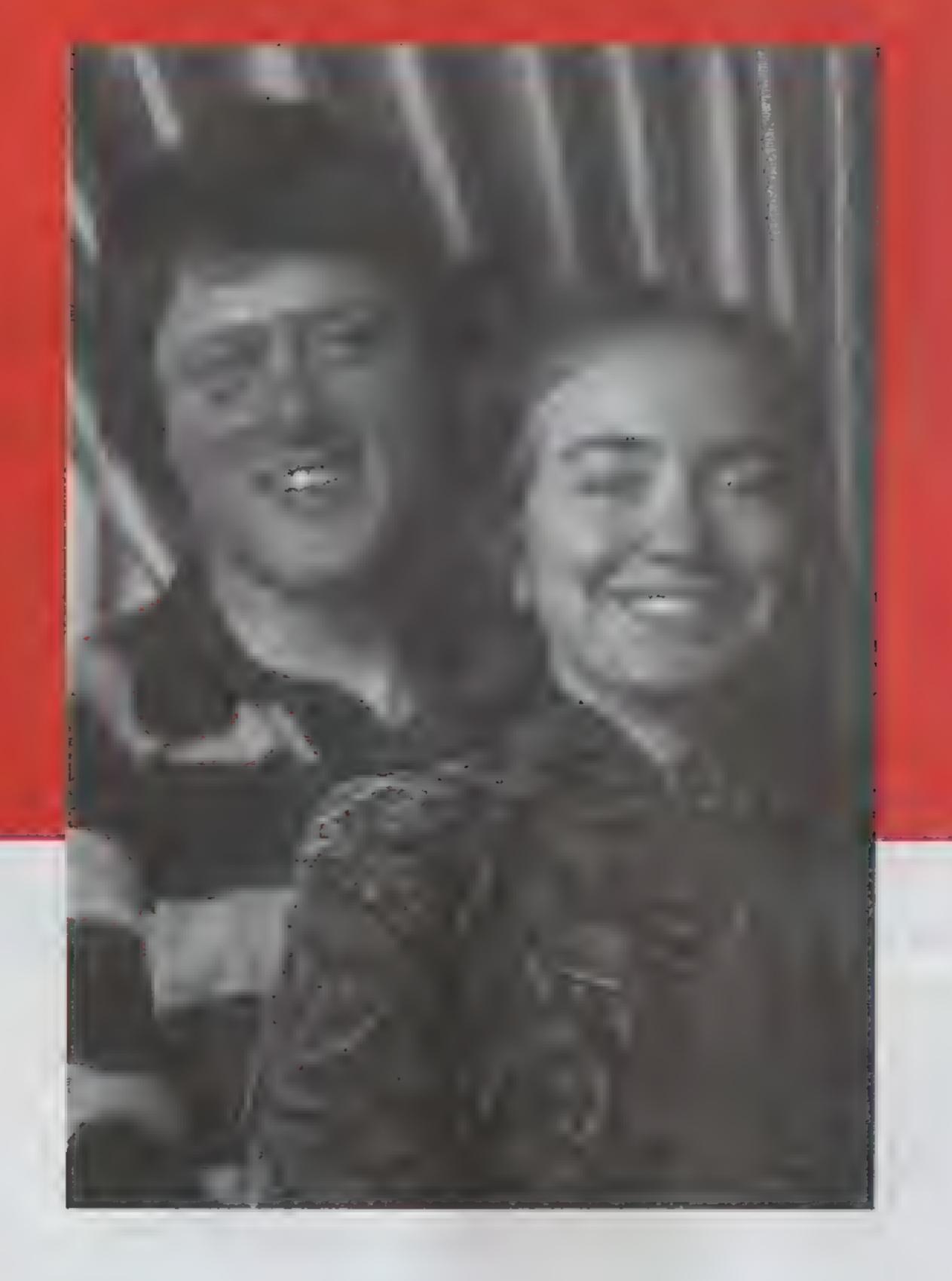
However,
the band's
more serious
songs lay out
their intentions
very close to the
surface. "You

don't have to read too much into our music," vocalist Joel Bell says. "Once you know the topic, everything starts to click."

"Scared Am I," for example, looks at the results of a teen pregnancy. "I wrote the song from her perspective, about her fears and expectations," Conrad says.

However, the members of Ghoti Hook hasten to remind fans not to place them on a pedestal. As Christian sums up, "Just because we write music that people happen to like doesn't make us great theologians. We still have all the

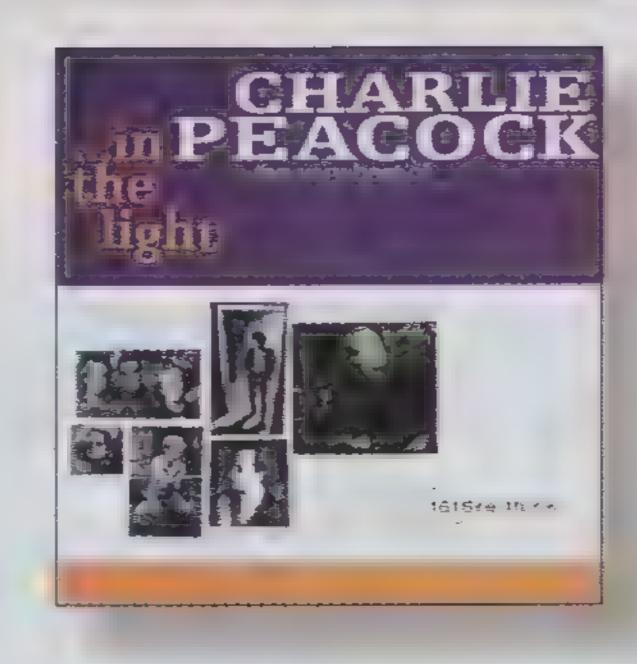
same struggles as every other kid."





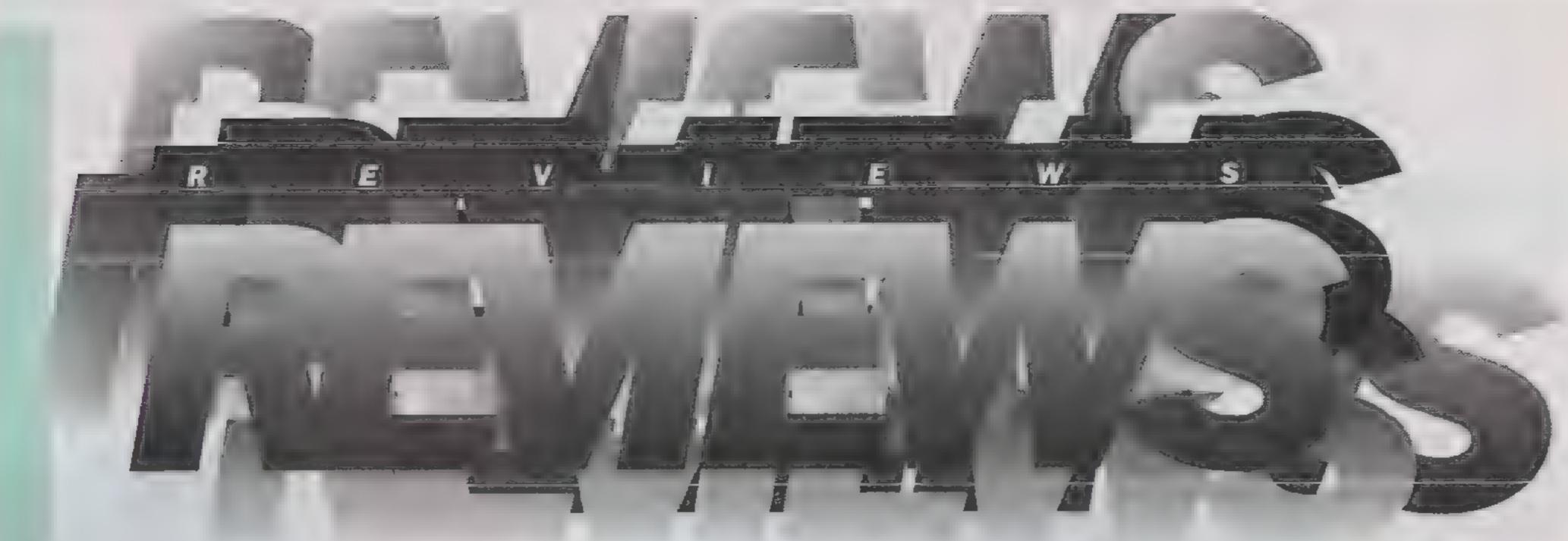
This November, who's it gonna be?





IN THE LIGHT: THE VERY BEST OF CHARLIE PEACOCK Charlie Peacock

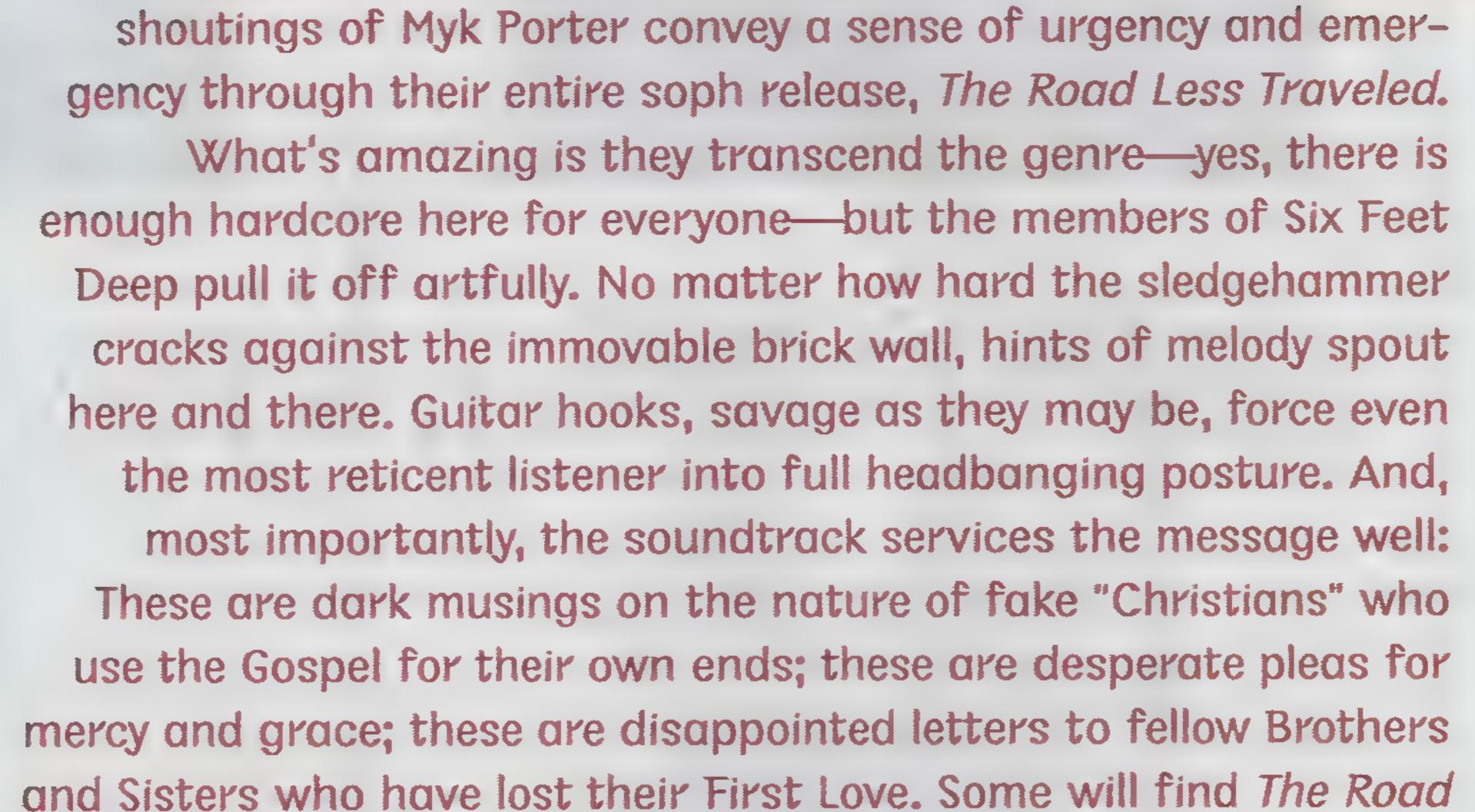
here has always been the long-running debate about when Charlie Peacock was and was not "cool." As one of the architects of Christian modern rock, his importance is certainly secure—however, as the new retrospective In the Light attests, at heart Peacock has always been a popster. But, oh, what pop music—from the early tracks (the worldpopaware "Lie Down in the Grass" and the pained hymn "Down in the Lowlands") to later gems (the show-stopper funk-rock of "Experience" and the mature perspective of tracks like "Big Man's Hat" and "Almost Threw it All Away"), In the Light threads together many highlights. As with other artists in his songwriting category—Sting, Peter Gabriel, Paul Simon—Peacock has often flirted with different musical genres, while presenting mature and thoughtful discussions of his worldview. Peacock discusses his faith in fresh and inventive ways, and In the Light presents that capably. Ultimately, after releasing a record as brilliant as strangelanguage, a retrospective is probably the only record that could follow. Longtime fans will enjoy hearing the old songs, some of which are available on disc first for the time. Newcomers will no doubt be depth available.



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Six Feet Deep

Six Feet Deep

is loud. Pouring thick, chunky songs into forged steel arrangements, the gargled



Less Traveled a bitter pill to swallow, but medicine is like that. -Chris Well

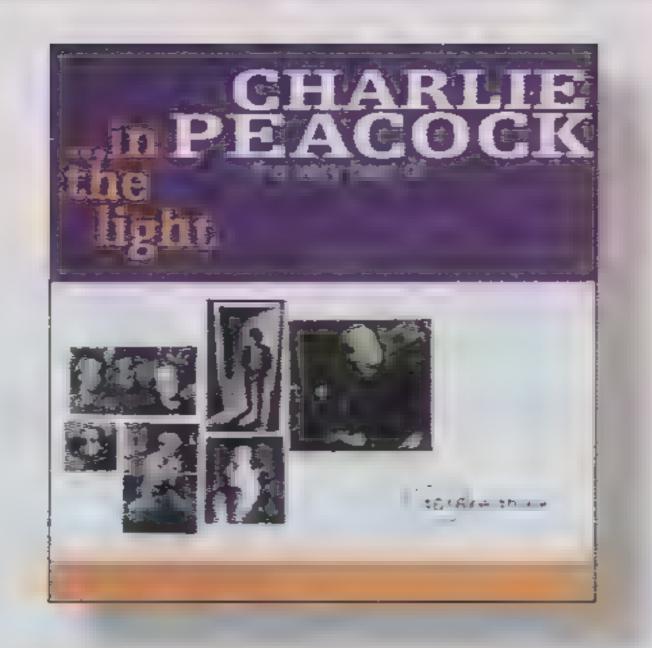
PSALMUS Jeff Johnson Ark/R.E.X.

surprised at the variety and ___ ften, we forget the full depth and breadth of the Psalms: While some of the most popular Psalms are joyous and hopeful, some of the most useful—those that speak most relevantly to —Scott W. Christopherthe modern condition—are those where David weeps, snarls and doubts. While David was certainly a role model for serving God, he also expressed some of the most dour moments in the Bible. Jeff Johnson celebrates the wholeness of the Psalms—the praises and the questions—with Psalmus, a project matching them to a moody score that reflects the swings in tone. With help from the powerful and tender vocals of Janet Chvatal, and such instrumentalists as flautist Brian Dunning and guitarist Derri Daugherty, Johnson weaves together such diverse elements as chants, Celtic music and modern pop. Psalmus is a mesmerizing event, a stylish, adult alternative praise & worship album with shades of light and dark. ---CsW

HOI POLLOI Jars of Clay Starflyer 59 T-bone PRAYER CHAIN Love Coma MXPX Guardian Curious Fools Johnny Q. Public Fleming & John Rhythm Saints The Waiting Clash of Symbols Adam Again PETER KING Sixpence None the Richer Hokus Pick Leader Dogs for the Blind Grammatrain Joy Electric Common Children The Kry Dime Store Prophets THE CHOIR Plankeye Fold Zandura Dale Thompson Stavesacre Third Day Tess Wiley Everdown ERIC CHAMPION Lost Dogs Poor Old Lu Gospel Gangstas Seven Day Jesus Driver 8 Christafari Supertones This Train Peace 586 CHARLIE PEACOCK Black Eyed Sceva that Petra tribute Kevin Clay Soulfood 76 Every Day Life Cloud Merchants World Wide Message Tribe Believable Picnic Blackball MORELLA'S FOREST Luxury Big Tent Revival Michael Roe Aleixa Mary Said Everybodyduck Yum Yum Children My Friend Stephanie Push Start Wagon Dogs of Peace Out of Eden VIGILANTES OF LOVE Six see What you ve missed?

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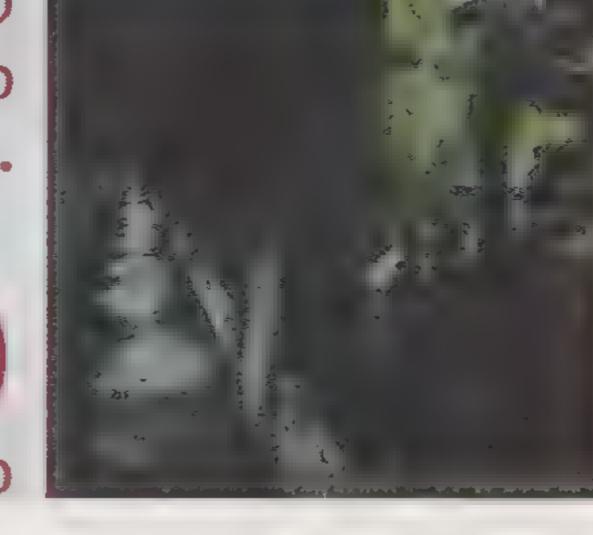
IN THE LIGHT: THE VERY BEST OF CHARLIE PEACOCK Charlie Peacock

here has always been the long-running debate about when Charlie Peacock was and was not "cool." As one of the architects

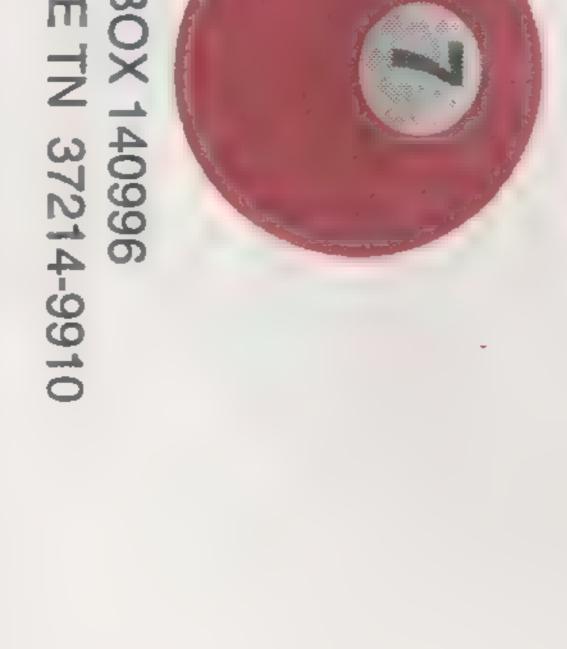


THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Six Feet Deep

Six Feet Deep



is loud. Pouring thick, chunky songs into





chants, Celtic music and modern pop. *Psalmus* is a mesmerizing event, a stylish, adult alternative praise & worship album with shades of light and dark. ---CsW

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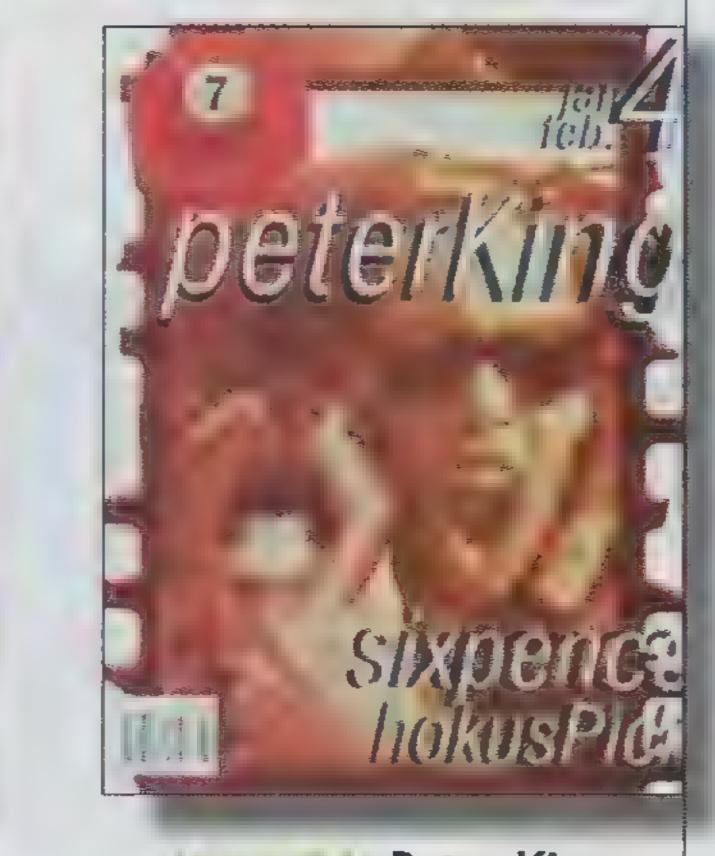




Issue #2: Prayer Chain



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UPBEATS AND BEATDOWNS FIVE IRON FRENZY 5 MINUTE WALK

WHAT A REMARKABLE DEBUT. SKA GROUP FIVE IRON FRENZY BOUNCES ALONG AT A GREAT PACE, WHICH IS ALWAYS FUN— BUT THEY'VE WEDDED THE PARTY MUSIC WITH AMAZINGLY SERIOUS AND DEEP LYRICS. THE OPENING SALVO, "OLD WEST," IS AN INDICTMENT AGAINST "CHRISTIANS" WHO ONLY CON-SIDER MISSIONARY WORK AS A METHOD OF STEALING LAND (THINK THE CRUSADES).



VALUE PAC Value Pac

The trio in Value Pac announce their intentions early on, opening their debut with "Graduation Day," a track that conveys the mixed emotions when making that transition from high school to the next destination. With a rounded-at-the-corners brand of punk pop, Value Pac moves along at a

"Sunday Christian"; it's inventive—musically

and lyrically. Now, if they can pull this sort

—CsW

of thing off 14 more times ...

"FAKING LIFE" POINTS OUT THE URGENCY OF SEEKING SALVATION ("WHY DOUBT THE fast clip, covering such topics as loss of LIFE HE OFFERS ... WHO KNOWS IF WE'VE GOT TIME"), WHILE THE MOODY "I FEEL LUCKY" POINTS innocence, hypocrisy and faithfulness. AT THE EMPTINESS OF LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST ("OUR HEARTS ARE BLACK"). OTHER SONGS DEAL However, without the angst of a MxPx, the WITH THE LURE OF PEER PRESSURE, CHRISTIANS WHO ARE MORE INTERESTED IN THE CAUSE THAN sense of humor of a Ghoti Hook or the pop IN SERVING THE CHRIST, AND AN ODE TO "SUPERHERO" COMBAT CHUCK. UPBEATS AND fuzz of an Offspring, much of this record is BEATDOWNS IS ALSO CHOCK FULL OF SUPERB MUSICIANSHIP, WITH ROCKIN' GUITARS AND Ajust average. The members of Value Pac SLAMMIN' HORN SECTION, AND EVEN A WACKY ODE TO WEST SIDE STORY. FIVE IRON FRENZY IS certainly have potential, as promised by

FIVE-ALARM FUN. —CSW



John Cox

Pamplin

SUNNY DAY

AMEROAFRIASIANA THE THROES BRAINSTORM RECORDS

WITH A NAME LIKE AMEROAFRIASIANA, YOU MIGHT THINK SAGE." BUT, OFTEN HE OUT-CLEVERS HIMSELF, AND HIS

THE THROES HAD TAKEN A LEAP INTO THE REALM OF MULTI-CULTURAL POP. INSTEAD, THROES LEADER WILLIAM CAMPBELL USES THE PHRASE, AND OTHER NON-SEQUITURS, TO DRAW WORD PICTURES OPEN TO INDIVID-UAL INTERPRETATION (MY FAVORITE EXAMPLE COMES FROM "FORTUNE," WHERE CAMPBELL OFFERS HIS AUDIENCE "Tugs & misses, calling wishes, fortunes just a day AWAY / BELLS & WHISTLES, FLUFFY MISSILES, COMEDY'S BEST FRIEND TODAY"). HIS LYRICS GIVE ENOUGH REFER-ENCE POINTS TO A SPIRITUAL VIEW TO DELIVER HIS "MES-

For all you closet Zeppelin junkies, wordplay and effusiveness just sound vague. Ex-Throes drummer and Poole frontthe wait is over. With passionate, MAN HARRY EVANS CO-PRODUCES THE RECORD WITH CAMPBELL. TOGETHER, THEY GIVE THE wailing vocals and hard-edged, Throes the sharpest, most energetic sound they have enjoyed since their debut, All gritty guitar leads layered over THE FLOWERS GROWING IN YOUR MOTHER'S EYES. "UNDERSTANDING" OPENS THE DISC WITH acoustic-based rock melodies swirling guitars and soaring vocals, Bringing to the Throes a NEW MUSICAL DEPTH, John Cox's debut project, Sunny DESPITE CAMPBELL'S OFTEN OFF-KEY SINGING. GONE ARE MOST OF THE DRONE AND MOOD-Day, feels like a return to the ROCK EXPERIMENTS OF 12BEFORE 9, THE THROES' PREVIOUS ALBUM, IN FAVOR OF SONGS WITH Houses of the Holy. But while more kick and punch and hooks that grab the Listener's ear. The use of such pop comparisons to LZ are inevitable DEVICES, COMBINED WITH CAMPBELL'S QUIZZICAL LYRICS, IS THE STRENGTH OF particularly on the title cut, Cox is AMEROAFRIASIANA—THE SIGN OF GROWTH THAT HOPEFULLY SIGNALS EVEN BETTER THINGS TO by no means a Robert Plant clone.COME.

David producer

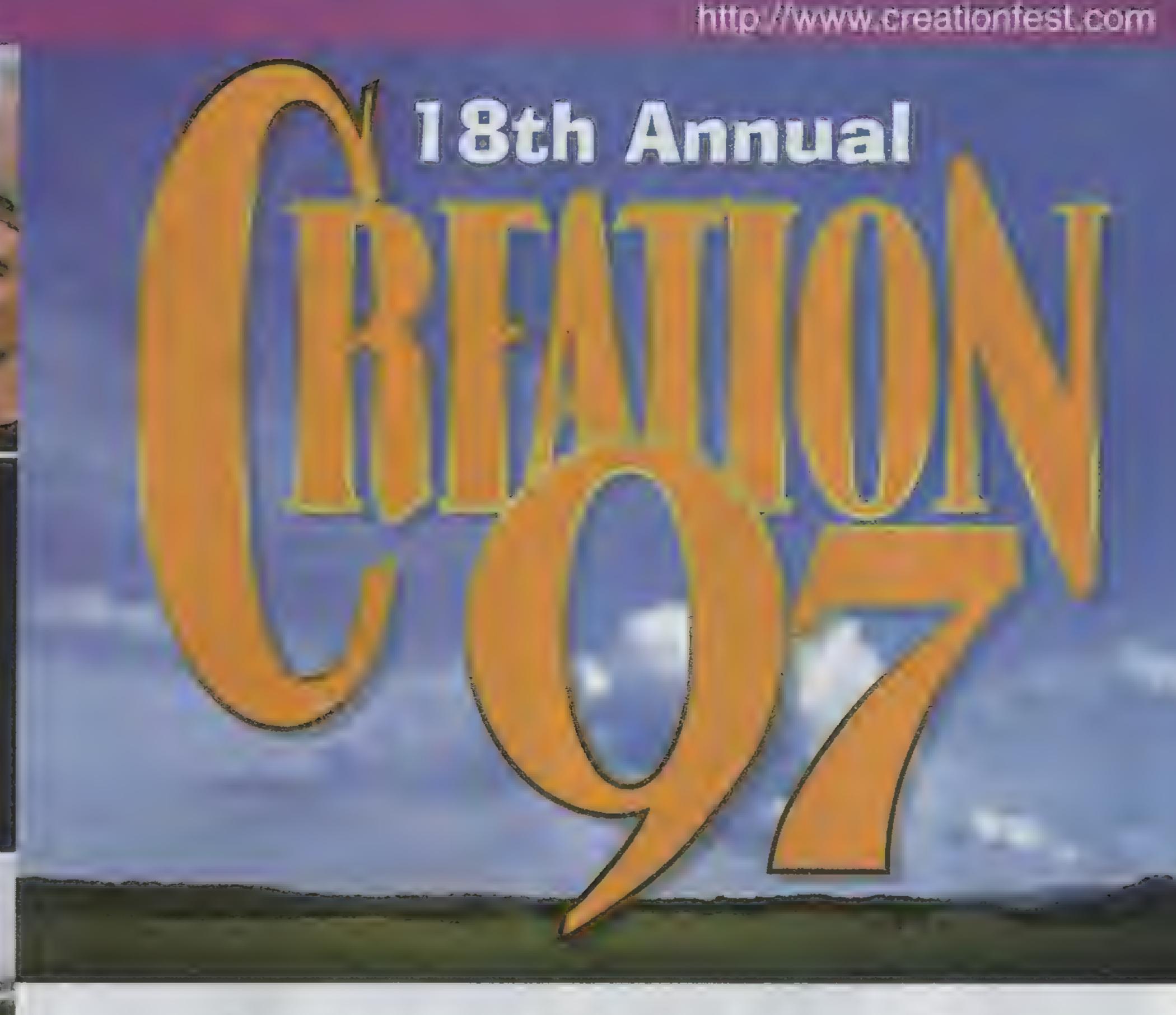
- BRAD CAVINESS

Kershenbaum, best known for his work with Tracy Chapman and Duran Duran, uses a deft hand to insure Sunny Day remains true to Cox's vision. The songwriting is superb, exploring themes of loneliness and alienation without becoming depressing ("I Don't Know," "What Am I Doing Here?"); and offering hope without sugar-coated clichés ("Heaven Hears You"). The Zeppelinesque "I Need You" manages a good bit of solid theology (check out Corinthians 12). There are also nods to the great arena-rock bands of the '80s, like Aerosmith and Kansas, with a little pre-movie soundtrack Bryan Adams thrown in for good measure. Sunny Day is good, old-fashioned rock 'n' roll: melodic, intense, intuitive and just a little bit rebellious. Cox should find a broad base of listeners in both the Christian and mainstream market.



-Mike Parker





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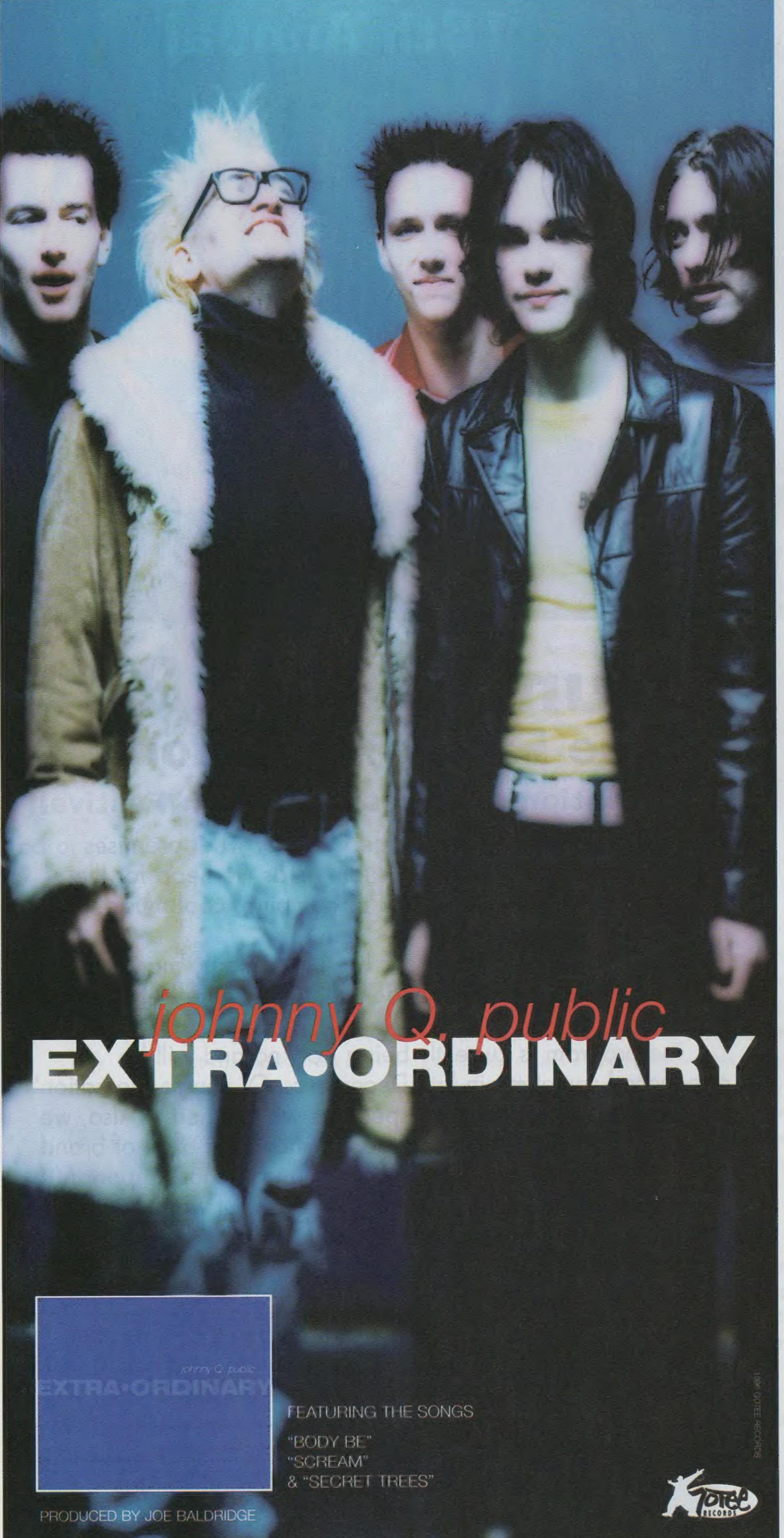
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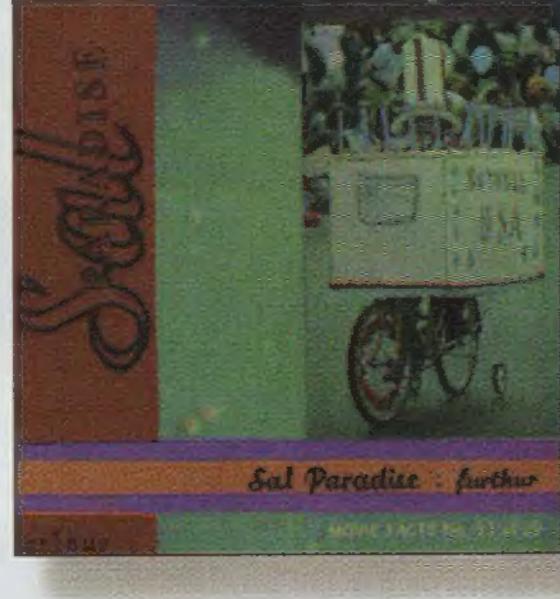
TAKE TIME TO
LISTEN, VOL. II
VARIOUS
5 MINUTE WALK

WHILE THIS COULD
EASILY HAVE JUST
BEEN YOUR USUAL
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MAKES TAKE TIME TO LISTEN VOL. II STAND OUT IS THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL TRACKS. KICKING OFF WITH A DIME STORE PROPHETS, "COME BACK" IS HIGHLIGHTED BY BOTH THE SAMPLED ANTI-ROCK RANTINGS OF A PREACHER AND THE HAND-JIVE SHUFFLE OF THE SONG ITSELF. THERE IS ALSO A COOL REMAKE OF THE POSIES' "I CAN DREAM ALL DAY" BY SEVEN DAY JESUS. AND THERE ARE TWO SNEAK PREVIEWS EACH FOR THREE NEWLY-SIGNED ARTISTS: THE SKA-CORE GROUP FIVE IRON FRENZY (ALTHOUGH THE ROUGHNESS OF THESE MIXES DO NO JUSTICE TO THIS INCREDIBLE GROUP); DRYVE (THE EARTHY ROCK AND RICH HARMONIES ARE AMAZING); AND VOCALIST SHERRI JONGEWARD. WITH THE COLLECTION ROUNDED OUT BY THE JANGLY, COLLEGE ROCK OF BLACK EYED SCEVA, THE STRANGE SURF-WAVE POP OF YUM YUM CHILDREN, THE INDUSTRIAL PRAISE OF MORTAL AND THE HAUNTING, FLOATING MOOD MUSIC OF RIVULETS AND VIOLETS, THERE IS TRULY A SMORGASBORD OF MODERN POP HERE, WITH SOMETHING FOR MOST LISTENERS. AND, WITH ALL 16 SONGS SELLING FOR LESS THAN \$5, THIS DISC IS PROBA-BLY THE BEST DEAL YOU'LL FIND TODAY.

FURTHER
Sal Paradise
Tooth & Nail



Moody and ambling, the American debut of Aussie rock group Sal

Paradise is a delight. With nod to the group Modern English, the gentle, delicate guitar pop of Sal Paradise surrounds songs that amble as well—images of driving and searching permeate the opus, detailing the spiritual journey we all travel. They seek ("we search for number one"); they knock ("haul me out of here ... purge the worst I fear"); they come face to face with Truth ("the site is discovered/the place of life begun"). While some will find the music on Further a bit monotonous—the record could have used a few mood swings—many will find a kindred soul here.

—CsW

I tried to be some body, & Someone who I could look up to, I would respect and I would core about and I thought if I was all frese trings Than maybe I could learn to love myself In not perfect, not put fagether and sometimes I'm lanely, but it's only real lit Booking: William Morris Agency (615) 963-3000 http://www.pamplinmusic.com

ameron stands over a grave in the cemetery, torn by thoughts of what should have been. He remembers young Daniel McDermitt, laid to rest some 20 years ago—and feels regret over his failure to make a change in Daniel's life. What makes this dramatic scene unusual is that Cameron is a guardian angel. Still haunted by the death of Daniel McDermitt, he now struggles to protect a new youth, Justin Griffin. Unfortunately, teenager Griffin, whose best friend just died in a car crash, doesn't want to hear about the Bible right now.

Archangels: The Saga, a new sevenissue mini-series from Eternal Studios, is the brainchild of John Leger and Patrick Scott. Archangels follows the tale of one teenager's

> soul, and the guardian angel who struggles to protect him—an angel haunted by the death of his last charge, and hindered by his new charge's lack of faith in God. It's dark, it's thoughtful—and straight from the Bible.

"First and foremost, we took the concept of 'spiritual warfare' directly from the Bible," Leger says. "We take the Bible very seriously. We do not stray from it.

"The visual designs, however, are not what people are used to,"

God."

Although the

cycle will end, there are plans to continue the idea. "We will end the story, and there is another story called Lifewave that picks up at the end of this one," Scott says.

"There are a lot of different stories that you could do that involve the aspects of spiritual warfare," Leger adds. "The human side of that story can always be something different."

Archangels offers an alternative to the "mature" books drowning the secular market, riddled with sex, violence and anti-Christian ideas. "I would say I'm very disappointed in comic books now," Scott says. "They're so dark. In any given title, within the first three pages you can find someone getting their head cut off."

However, at conventions they've found that Archangels—sans decapitations and all—is being greeted warmly by the fans. "We'll have people come up to us who are covered up with tatoos and wearing pentagrams and these flaming skull shirts, and they tell

us how much they like the book," Leger says. "We're like, 'whoah."

"And these are people who would never go to church—and probably wouldn't he laughs. "We took the concept of be welcome in church—because they're angels and instead of putting them in a so scary," Scott says. "People who are white robe and halo, we made them alone and afraid, that's how I look at more like superheroes. We them. And they came up and said they put them in metallic liked out book. I was really proud, body armor, because because Archangels: The Saga is all they're warriors of about glorifying God, glorifying Jesus Christ."

-Chris Well





COLLISION POINT

by Doug Brumley

Welcome to 7ball's look at the collision point between music and multimedia. Here you'll find web and CD-ROM reviews. We'll also recognize those projects and sites that push the interactive envelope. (Since the web is constantly in transition, be aware that content, features, and perhaps even addresses mentioned may have changed since press time.)

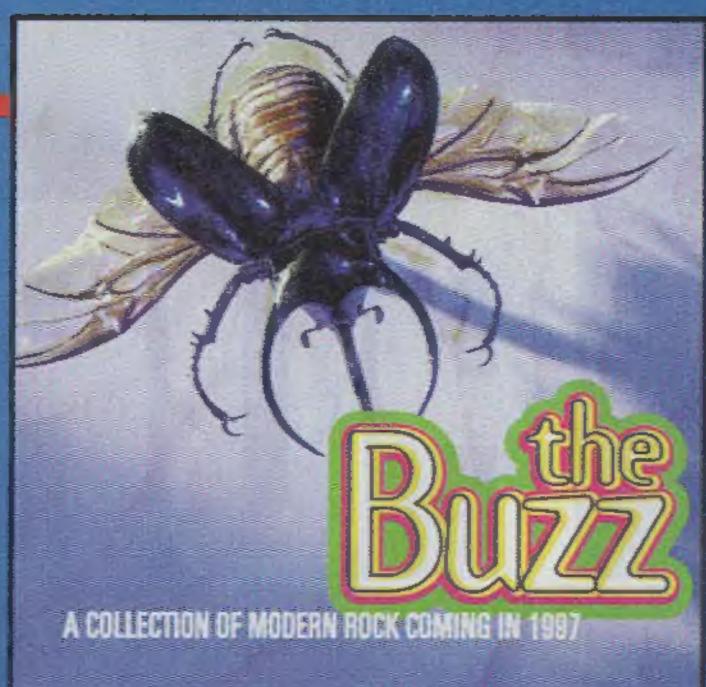
Steve Taylor in 96 Campaign Headquarters and Beauty Salon http://www.serve.com/taylor96/

In a sprawling site truly befitting the wacky nature of Steve Taylor, Matthew Prins has created the headquarters for the farcical (or is it?) "Steve Taylor in 96" campaign. Although several pages on the site are far outdated, the majority of the content is provided on a more timely basis by the witty Taylor fans who visit and contribute their ideas. Highlights include "Steve Taylor's Poetry Corner" and "Robert Tilton Memorial Beauty Salon," which stepped in to prevent campaign coffers from running dry. In addition to the humorous-and sometimes just plain silly—features, the site

also includes more practical pages which allow visitors join the actual Steve Taylor e-mail discussion list, link to other Steve Taylor pages, or offer eedback about the site itself 🧶

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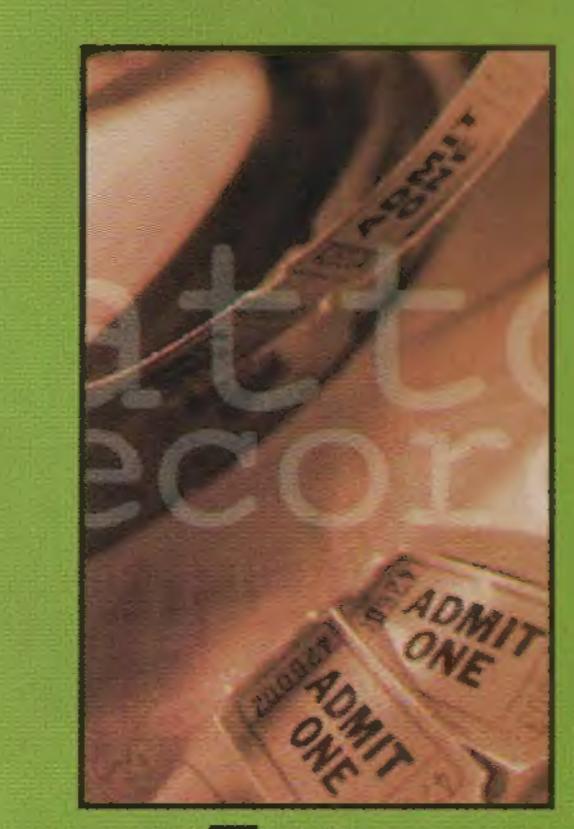
Bridgeport, CT

rap/club reporters

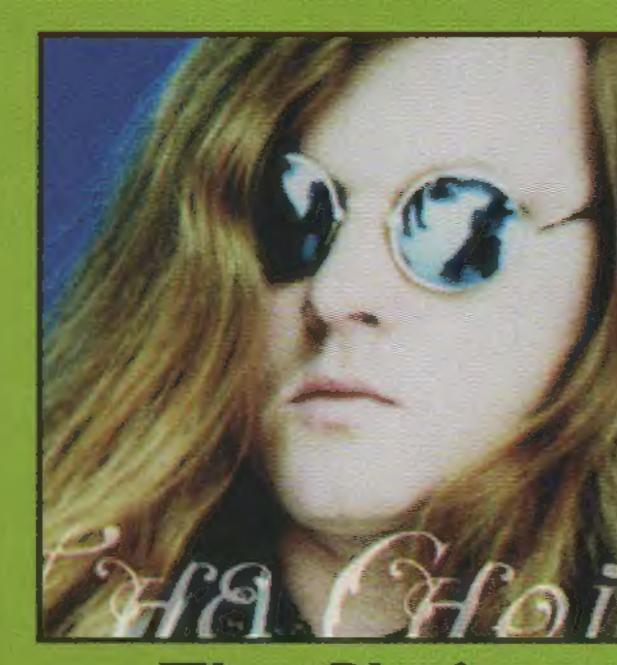
Sunday 9PM

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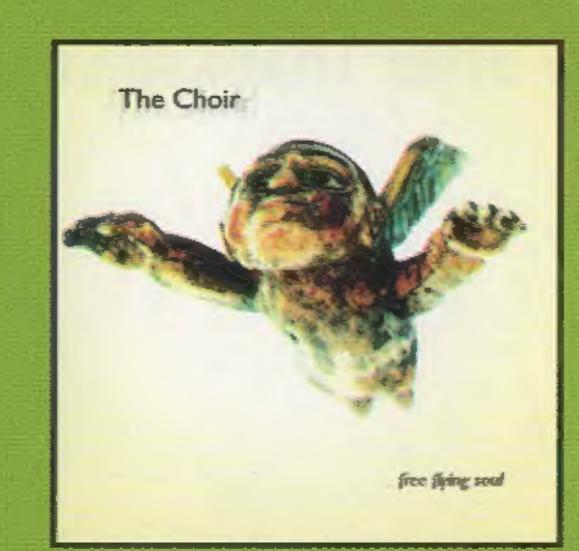




Tattoo long form video hoopla Volume One.



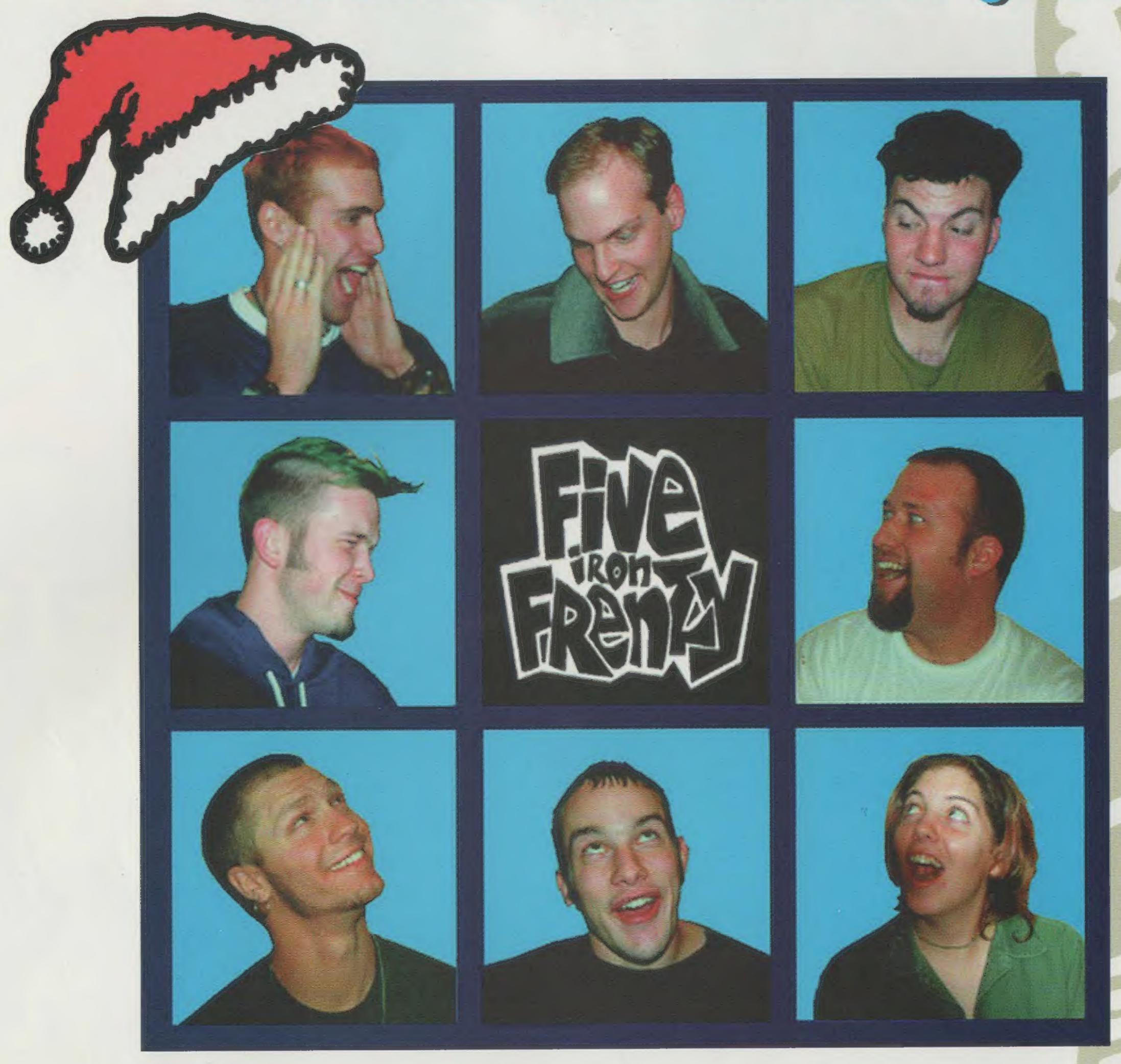
The Choir Better than Live



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